

Husseini links charter change to prisoners

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — A senior West Bank Palestinian leader on Tuesday hinted that Israel should release its Palestinian prisoners in exchange for a decision by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to amend anti-Israeli provisions in its charter. "To modify the charter you have to convince the Palestinian people that the time for peace has come," Faisal Husseini said on Israeli television. "You can't do that while maintaining certain categories of prisoners in detention." Israel, currently holding 6,000 Palestinian prisoners, has been pressing the PLO to remove articles from its charter calling for the elimination of "the Zionist presence in Palestine" and declaring "illegal" the division of Palestine by the United Nations in 1947. Israel since May has released more than 4,000 prisoners but has refused to free others charged with killing Israelis. Mr. Husseini ruled out any immediate move to amend the charter as "a third of the members of the Palestine National Council are opposed to the move." He said the change in the charter could not take place until after Palestinian elections on the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

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Sayeh to return to Jerusalem

AMMAN (AP) — Adel Hamid Sayeh, the first Palestinian activist to be banished after Israel occupied the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the 1967 Middle East war, said Wednesday he was going back home. The 57-year-old native of Jerusalem became chairman of the Palestine National Council (PNC) in 1984 but quit the post last year. His health is failing. "I have decided to go back to my homeland," said Sheikh Sayeh. He added that Israel has given permission to return, but "some preparations" had to be made before he heads back in two weeks time, after 27 years in exile. Family members said that despite his ill-health, Sheikh Sayeh planned to continue political activities in Jerusalem. Despite his return, Sheikh Sayeh remains critical of Yasser Arafat's autonomy deal with Israel, saying it falls short of what he sees as the Palestinians' right to an independent state in all of the occupied territories. He has also rejected the Palestine Liberation Organisation leader's attempts to convene a PNC meeting in Gaza to remove clauses in the PNC charter that call for Israel's elimination.

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Sheikh Zayed meets Majali in Geneva

AMMAN (J.T.) — Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahyan, president of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), held talks with Prime Minister Abdal Salam Majali in Geneva on Tuesday, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

It was the first high-level meeting between Jordan and the UAE after the 1991 Gulf crisis.

Petra said Sheikh Zayed and Dr. Majali discussed bilateral relations and the Middle East peace process. It did not elaborate. Sheikh Zayed is on a private visit to Geneva.

Dr. Majali, who is on his way to the U.S. on a lecture tour on behalf of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, also held talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Petra said.

Israeli Arab deputy to meet Iraqi envoy

TEL AVIV (AFP) — An Israeli Arab deputy announced Wednesday he intended to defy Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and meet with Iraq's U.N. ambassador.

The deputy, Abdul Wahab Darawesh, is a member of the Arab Democratic Party, which has two seats in Israel's parliament. He was speaking during a private visit to the United States. "I want to see the four year embargo against Iraq lifted and I want to meet (Iraq's) ambassador to the U.N. with a view to integrating his country into the Middle East peace process," said Mr. Darawesh. "We live in an era of peace. We must therefore talk of peace, look to the future and forget the dark days of the past," he added, alluding to Iraq's 39 Scud missile attacks on Israel during the 1991 Gulf war. "After all," he continued, "Iraqi President Saddam Hussein must also forget Israel's air raid on the Osirak nuclear power station (on June 7, 1981)" (see related story on page 12).

PFLP claims grenade attack

DAMASCUS (AFP) — A Palestinian group said Wednesday that it carried out the attack on a military post in Bethlehem on the occupied West Bank that wounded four Israeli soldiers. Commandos from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) "launched a grenade attack on an Israeli position causing several casualties," the Damascus-based group said. Tuesday's attack also set the building on fire and all the commandos escaped, said the PFLP.

2 killed in S. Lebanon clash

MARJAYOUN (AP) — Two Palestinian guerrillas have been killed in a clash with an Israeli patrol inside the strip of territory Israel occupies in South Lebanon. Security sources said Wednesday. The sources said a guerrilla squad infiltrated late Tuesday into the village of Qantara, just inside the central sector of the enclave Israel maintains as a "security zone." An Israeli patrol spotted the infiltrators and a clash ensued. The bodies of the two guerrillas were found during search operations mounted by Israeli troops in helicopter gunships and tanks at dawn.

Swedish worker released in Somalia

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Somali kidnappers have released a Swedish aid worker held for two weeks apparently for ransom, government and aid officials said Wednesday. Lena Thielander, 28, a worker from the private charity International Aid Sweden, was released late Tuesday. News of her release was made public Wednesday.

Israel begins handing over W. Bank to Palestinians

Israel, PLO initial accord

CAIRO (AP) — Israeli and PLO negotiators initiated a new agreement on Wednesday to transfer to the Palestinians responsibility for health care, tourism and other services throughout the West Bank.

The 42-page agreement still must be approved by the Israeli cabinet and Palestinian National Authority, which took control of the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho in May.

The pact will give Palestinians in areas still occupied by Israel a measure of self-rule for the first time.

The chief PLO negotiator, Nabil Shaath, and his Israeli counterpart, Maj. Gen. Danny Rothchild told reporters after initialising the document that they expected it would be reviewed by the national authority and Israeli cabinet over the weekend.

Throughout the West Bank on Sept. 12.

Mr. Shaath told reporters the date would be part of the agreement expected to be initialled later in the day.

Mr. Shaath said the Sept. 12 date was set for transferring other powers because a meeting of countries donating aid to the Palestinians was scheduled three days earlier.

meaning last-minute details of financing could be worked out.

The way was cleared for the overall agreement when the two sides on Tuesday completed work on the topic of taxation. The subject was complicated because while Palestinians will collect the taxes, Israel will retain control over other activities, including security.

Dr. Shaath urged that negotiators move on quickly to discussing elections for a legislative assembly, which he expects will give the PLO a true mandate to govern. However, Palestinians say they cannot hold elections while Israel is still occupying a large part of the West Bank.

The autonomous areas currently are being governed by an 18-member Palestinian National Authority appointed by PLO leader Yasser Arafat.

The chief Israeli negotiator, General Danny Rothchild, also said earlier that the two sides had almost finalised a document on the general principles for the transfer of civilian powers in the occupied West Bank.

The latest accord would be an important and essential step toward a final settlement," said Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa, whose country hosts the PLO-Israeli autonomy negotiations.

Mr. Shaath said he would

(Continued on page 7)

Syrians vote for parliament; little change seen in makeup

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Millions of Syrians went to polling centres which opened early on Wednesday to elect representatives to the 250-member People's Assembly (parliament) for the next four years.

Interior Minister Mohammad Harba said more than 7.3 million were eligible to vote in the elections in which 7,267 candidates were competing for seats.

People poured into polling centres which opened at 0700 (0400 GMT). Voting will continue until 2000 (1700 GMT) on Wednesday when the ballot boxes will be closed.

The boxes will be reopened at 7 a.m. on Thursday and close at 1400 (1100 GMT) when ballot counting will start. Results are expected to be announced by the interior minister on Saturday.

No major shift in policy is expected in the new parliament, a largely consultative body where lists of the Baath-led

National Progressive Front (NPF) are expected to win as they have in five previous elections, analysts said.

They said government plans to expand its economy reform programmes and pursue the peace process with Israel will be supported by the new legislators.

The NPF, which got two thirds of the seats of the outgoing parliament, is expected to score the same number of seats.

Independent candidates, including wealthy businessmen, have spent vast amounts of money on campaign posters and banners that have appeared in the Baath in the run-up to the polls.

Singers, actors and actresses are also among candidates, who include 512 women.

The NPF groups the Baath Party of President Hafez Al Assad, the Communist Party (two branches), the Socialist Union, the Arab Socialist Party, the Unionist Socialist Party, the Unionist Socialist

Party and the Unionist Socialist Democratic Party.

Despite the ballot, President Assad, who seized power in a 1971 coup, retains a firm, highly centralised grip on power and the elections are essentially a procedural affair rather than a political contest between rival parties.

Foreign policy, security and even Syria's peace negotiations with Israel are never subject to public debate.

Parliament's main function is to provide the government with a barometer of the sentiment among various interest groups rather than serve as a decision-making body.

However, the large expected turnout and joyous mood that have characterised these and other elections in recent years unmistakably reflect a thirst for democracy among the populace.

The People's Assembly was formed with 145 seats a year after Mr. Assad's bloodless coup and later expanded. Its last four-year term ended June 10.

opposed the Jordanian-Israeli peace moves as the reasons for the lower figure.

On the other hand, 52.7 per cent of those who opposed the declaration believed that Jordan's economy would improve as a result of peace and 52.4 said Jordan would be able to regain its territorial and water rights from Israel.

"It clearly indicates that a good segment of those who reject making peace with Israel base their positions on ideological and doctrinal positions as well as religious grounds," said Mustafa Hamarneh, director of the Centre for Strategic Studies.

"The ball is clearly in Israel's court," Dr. Hamarneh said in explaining the results of the survey.

"Jordanians have optimistic and realistic expectations of the peace negotiations and it is up to Israel to live up to the expectations."

But, Dr. Hamarneh

warned, people could change opinions quickly on such a dynamic subject. "If the Taba experience is to be repeated, then that will put a damper on people's enthusiasm over the peace process," Dr. Hamarneh said.

His statement was a reference to the prolonged negotiations over the Taba beach resort that Israel held with Egypt as the final phase of their peacemaking in the early 80s. Israel was widely seen as procrastinating and unwilling to return the Egyptian territory to Egypt. The issue could not be settled in negotiations and had to be resolved by the International Court of Justice, which ruled in favour of Egypt.

The highlights of the findings of the poll were:

"The highest level of support for the Washington Declaration came from the northern governorates with 85.1 per cent; the lowest was in Irbid city with 73.9 per cent.

But, Dr. Hamarneh

King meets Posovalyuk

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday received at the Royal Court Viktor Posovalyuk, a personal representative of Russian President Boris Yeltsin, who arrived in Amman Tuesday as part of a regional tour.

King Hussein and the Russian envoy discussed developments in the Middle East peace process.

Mr. Posovalyuk said Moscow welcomed the Washington Declaration signed last month between Jordan and Israel ending the state of belligerence between the two countries and said his government considers the declaration as an important step on the way to resolving the conflict.



Israel ready to quit Golan for peace, Beilin says

OSLO (Agencies) — Israel is ready to withdraw from the Golan Heights in exchange for peace with Syria and such a deal could be reached quickly once Damascus agrees to direct talks, Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin said on Wednesday.

The extent of our withdrawal would be parallel to the level of peace achieved," said Mr. Beilin, in Norway after visiting Denmark and Sweden.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has pledged to hold a national referendum on any deal involving an essential pullout from Golan.

"We are prepared to bring a very hard decision to the people. It would not be a question of just a few inches," said Mr. Beilin, adding it might be necessary

to dismantle Israeli settlements on Golan to implement a peace deal.

The United States has mediated between Israel and Syria for almost three years, most recently in a series of shuttle U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

"We are closer to peace with Syria than ever, but developments have nevertheless not been satisfactory," said Mr. Beilin, calling on Syria to negotiate directly with Israel.

Mr. Beilin, one of the architects of the peace deal brokered by Norway between Israel and the Palestinians, said there was an historic chance for peace with Syria but time was running short.

Algerian talks resume

ALGIERS (AFP) — President Liamine Zeroual and delegations from five Algerian opposition parties held a second round of talks Wednesday after breaking for a day, official sources said.

The five parties which agreed to take part in the talks were: The National Liberation Front (FLN), Algeria's former ruling party, the Movement for Democracy in Algeria, former President Ahmad Ben Bella's party, the Algerian Reform Party and two Islamic parties, rivals to the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), the Islamic Society Movement and the Islamic Renaissance Movement.

The Socialist Forces led by Hocine Ait Ahmed, which was also invited to the talks, refused to take part in the talks.

Yemeni president plans two-party coalition

SANAA (R) — The Islamic Islah party and President Ali Abdullah Saleh's party are discussing formation of a new Yemeni government excluding southern socialists defeated in the civil war, a senior official and Islah member said.

"It seems things are moving in the direction of a coalition between the (Saleh's) General Peoples Congress (GPC) and Islah," Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Wahab Ali Al Ansari told Reuters in an interview.

Political sources said last week a new coalition would be announced before the end of August.

But Mr. Ansari said, "it is difficult to mention any date."

The Aden-based Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) merged southern Yemen with Mr. Saleh's north four years ago

and remains officially in the cabinet although its senior leaders have been denounced by Mr. Saleh as traitors for trying to break up the union.

Islah, the traditional political enemy of the secular YSP, strongly supported Mr. Saleh during a two-month civil war that ended on July 7 with the defeat of southern secessionists led by YSP leader Ali Salem Al Beidi.

The party has been largely in disarray since.

Four of its members who did not join the breakaway state remain in the government that was originally formed as a three-party coalition of the GPC, YSP and Islah.

The YSP's Haider Abu Bakr Al Attas was prime minister but he and other YSP leaders who supported the breakaway state were

sacked by Mr. Saleh who in May appointed a close aide, Mohammad Said Al Attar, as acting prime minister.

Mr. Ansari said GPC and Islah were holding talks aimed "at defining a clear basis for the decision-making within the new coalition to avoid past mistakes."

He said the two parties were not trying to exclude the YSP but the party has not been able yet to define its position.

The new coalition is not an attempt for polarisation. We are committed to the principle of pluralism and the multi-party system," Mr. Ansari said.

"We do not want to interfere in the YSP affairs or try to weaken it or belittle its political role. On the contrary we want to help it overcome its problems," he said.

Meanwhile, pistol-packing

Yemen, with three guns for every person, plans to ban the carrying of firearms in cities.

"We are making efforts to ban the carrying of weapons once and for all in the cities and re-organise carrying (arms) under licence in other areas," Interior Minister Yahya Al Mutawakel told a meeting of senior police and security officers.

The meeting, attended by President Saleh, was shown on Samaa Television on Tuesday night.

Mr. Mutawakel said earlier this year that more than 50 million guns were in private hands in Yemen.

Political sources believed the figure had grown considerably since the civil war.

They said that during the conflict large quantities of weapons were seized as booty by soldiers and civilians.

Majority of Jordanians support Washington Declaration, poll finds

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Eighty per cent of Jordanians support the Washington Declaration ending the state of belligerency and paving the way for a peace agreement between Jordan and Israel, according to the results of an opinion poll released Wednesday.

The findings of the poll indicate that those who oppose Jordan's move towards peace with Israel do so mainly based on "ideological and ideological" grounds rather than on a belief that the Kingdom would not be able to secure its rights in negotiations with the Jewish state.

The poll, conducted last week, last found that 82.2 per cent believe that Jordan's economy would benefit from making peace with Israel and 69 per cent believe that the Kingdom would be able to secure its territorial and water rights and achieve its security

Israel seeks aid for extending self-rule

STOCKHOLM (R) — Israel's Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin said on Tuesday he had discussed with Sweden financing for extending Palestinian autonomy under the so-called early empowerment process.

Mr. Beilin, on a Nordic tour during which he will visit donor nations, said he was making the approach jointly on behalf of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

The PLO and Israel were due to an initial agreement in Cairo on Wednesday to expand Palestinian autonomy to the rest of the West Bank in five spheres of life — the early empowerment deal.

After meeting Swedish Foreign Minister Margaretha Af Ugglas, Mr. Beilin told a news conference: "I raised here with the Swedish government the question of financing the early empowerment."

"We promised the Palestinians to raise it with the donors, so that part of the money which (the donors) pledged to Palestinian autonomy will be directed towards the early empowerment to finance these... different authorities," he added.

The agreement should extend Palestinian powers over health, education, tourism, welfare and direct taxation in the West Bank beyond the small self-rule enclaves of Jericho and the Gaza Strip, handed over by Israel in May.

Passing on responsibility for direct taxation of the West Bank's nearly one million Palestinians had been the main obstacle in Cairo.

But Israel and the PLO agreed last week to jointly approach donor countries with a request to support the initial funding of the agreement with \$30 to \$40 million.

Mr. Beilin said that while these negotiations between Israel and the PLO were now set to move ahead, the next phase of parallel multilateral negotiations, initiated internationally after the Moscow conference of 1992, would also be important.

"I believe that apart from the developments on the bilateral levels it will be very important to go on with the multilateral level, which means actually (creating) common infrastructure in the Middle East," he told reporters.

The working group for regional economic development, chaired by the European Union, is in charge of this area of the talks and has already obtained pledges from donors for support in areas like energy, water, telecommunications and roads.

Mr. Beilin said he believed good progress had been made in these discussions and hoped that it would lead in time to people in the region realising that peace was an

economic as well as a political process.

"That can only happen when they see the economic benefits," he said.

Beyond the first infrastructure moves, Mr. Beilin said he could envisage a common market but only in several years' time.

"I believe that in the first step we are going to have a common infrastructure... only later, maybe in five years, maybe in 10, will it be possible to have a common market."

"It will be very difficult, maybe even dangerous, to have a common market once you take into consideration the differences between our economies," he added.

Kohl meets Peres

In Bonn, Chancellor Helmut Kohl said Germany wants the European Union (EU) to reach a new and improve cooperation pact with Israel soon.

Mr. Kohl told visiting Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres that Bonn wanted the Jewish state to be closely associated with the 12-member EU.

The chancellor stressed the German government's wish for a quick conclusion to current negotiations between Israel and the European Union over revising their 1975 cooperation protocol," Mr. Kohl's spokesman Dieter Vogel said after the talks.

"The new accord must take account of the peace process in the region and include qualitative improvements," the spokesman said in a statement.

Israel is looking for greater access to European agricultural markets, research and development programme and government contracts with EU member states to cut its current \$5 billion trade deficit with the EU bloc.

The EU agreed in principle to renegotiate its protocol last December but since then Israel says several EU countries have procrastinated. Germany holds the six-month EU presidency until Jan. 1.

Mr. Peres said earlier that Israel would like to see Germany play a greater international role and take a seat on the United Nations Security Council.

The Bonn government has sought a permanent seat on a reformed U.N. Security Council, a request backed earlier this year by U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali.

Asked by reporters whether he favoured a German place on the council, Mr. Peres said: "Yes. One should no longer see Germany through the angle of the past but the angle of the future."

"Germany must play a bigger role in world politics," added Mr. Peres.

At the time Mr. Bahaeed-

Court ruling on veil a blow to Cairo's efforts

CAIRO (AP) — In a setback to the government's efforts to control Islamic fundamentalists, a court has annulled an order that prevented school girls from wearing the veil without parental approval.

When Education Minister Hussein Bahaeedine issued the order last month, he said it was meant to stop students from being coerced by fundamentalists into covering their hair in line with conservative Muslim thinking.

It immediately aroused anger from fundamentalist lawyers and many parents. Yehia Abu Al Magd, a lawyer who opposed the ruling said more than 200 parents, school administrators and lawyers filed six cases against the order.

A bearded man sitting in the front row of the stifling court room cried "Allahu Akbar," as the verdict was read in the administrative judicial court on Tuesday.

Judge Magdi Abu Al N'as, who announced the verdict, gave the man an angry look.

Mr. Abu Al N'as only stated the court's decision without offering an explanation. A statement on the legal reasons behind the ruling is to be issued in several days.

The order is to be immediately implemented even if the minister appeals within the 15-day legal period. It was not immediately clear if an appeal would be filed.

The Egyptian government, which has been battling for two years to put down a campaign of violence by Islamic radicals, is increasingly finding itself challenged in the courts by fundamentalist lawyers.

About 10 teenage girls wearing veils showed up to hear the ruling.

"Other girls are free to go to the school dressed as they like... we too have a personal freedom to go as we like," said an 18-year-old who gave her name as Dalia and wore the most conservative veil that allows only the eyes to show.

"We are old enough to decide for ourselves what to wear," she said.

Abdul Halim Mandour, one of the lawyers bringing suit against the education minister's ruling, said it was clear his side would be successful.

At the time Mr. Bahaeed-

U.N. promises quick look at Kuwait fires claim

GENEVA (Agencies) — The U.N. body charged with compensating victims of Iraq's 1990 occupation of Kuwait is to appoint experts to examine a \$1 billion claim for the cost of putting out hundreds of oil well fires, it said on Tuesday.

The United Nations Compensation Commission, which has so far received more than \$100 billion in claims against Iraq, said it considered the oil well issue had a "symbolic character" for most Kuwaitis.

Although the commission has started paying out on smaller claims by individuals,

it has not yet tackled any larger commercial claims.

Iraqi troops are accused of setting alight hundreds of wells as they were retreating from Kuwait in early 1991, fleeing U.S.-led forces. The Kuwait Oil Company later claimed more than \$950 million for the cost of putting them out.

"Because of its economic, environmental and health hazard connotations, this claim for the burning of the oil wells — that altered so much Kuwait's desert landscape and life — took a symbolic character for Kuwait,"

the commission said in a statement.

The commission had decided to appoint as soon as possible a panel of commissioners to examine and report back on the claim.

The experts will chosen jointly by the commission itself and U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali and will start their work as soon as possible.

The compensation programme is an unprecedented attempt to provide redress for war victims.

Altogether the commission

is considering \$160 billion worth of claims from some 2.5 million people and 2.5 businesses who say they were harmed by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

The vast majority are from migrant workers, including one million Egyptians who were forced to flee Kuwait and Iraq, leaving behind their jobs, money and possessions.

The first compensation of \$2 million was paid earlier this summer to 650 people who suffered serious injuries or who lost family members during the Iraqi invasion.

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Free Zones Corporation Director General Musa Jaghbeer (left) and a representative of an unidentified local firm Wednesday sign an agreement for the establishment of a free zone at Queen Alia International Airport (Petra photo)

Local firm contracted to erect free zone

AMMAN (Petra) — The Free Zones Corporation Wednesday signed an agreement with a local contracting firm to establish a free zone at Queen Alia International Airport (QIAA) at a cost of JD 500,000.

The proposed 10,000-square-metre free zone at the airport will include an administration building, in addition to storage and service areas.

The QIAA free zone will meet the primary needs of interested merchants and in-

vestors in view of the increase in the volume of merchandise arriving at the airport.

The corporation has received the approval of the Minister of Transport to increase the zone's area to 100,000 square metres in the future, with part of it allocated to small, environmentally-safe industries, and another part to attract technologically-advanced industries.

Mr. Jaghbeer said the corporation is currently studying the prospect of establishing other free zones in various parts of the Kingdom.

Corporation Director General Musa Al Jaghbeer

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Crown Prince offers condolences to Hamarneh family.

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday delegated his private advisor Mohammad Al Saqaf to attend the funeral of Nabeel Hamarneh and to offer condolences to the family of the deceased.

TCC warns late payers

AMMAN (Petra) — The Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) has asked all subscribers to pay their bills as soon as possible and threatened to disconnect telephone lines of subscribers in default as of next Saturday.

It also called on those who did not receive their monthly telephone bills to obtain them from any of the TCC centres around the Kingdom.

Minister opens women's Islamic centre

ZARQA (Petra) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Abbadi Wednesday opened in Zarqa city the second Islamic Cultural Centre for Women. The minister also opened in Al Zawahreh area in the city Al Qa'qa' Ben Amr Mosque, built at a cost of JD 70,000. The mosque, which can accommodate 400 worshippers, was built on an 1,800-metre plot.



Planning Minister Hisham Khatib (left) and German Ambassador to Jordan Heinrich Reimers (second from left) Wednesday sign an agreement on German government support of a waste water project (Petra photo)

Bonn, Amman sign agreement on waste water transfer project

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Germany Wednesday signed an agreement whereby the German government will extend through the German Construction Bank a DM 59.5 million soft loan to finance a project to transfer waste water from Amman to the Khrbet Samra treatment plant.

The agreement also stipulates that DM 500,000 will be extended in the form of a grant to finance procedures supporting the project, provided that if this sum was not

used it would be converted into a loan.

The project entails extending a 38-kilometre pipeline from the Ein Ghazal waste water treatment station to the Khrbet Samra station to avoid flooding at the former.

The two sides also signed memorandums amending earlier documents signed in February on supporting a project on the use of renewable energy resources carried out by the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) in cooperation

with the German Technical Cooperation Agency (GTZ).

The amended memorandums raise the German government's contribution from DM 850,000 to DM 935,000 to cover the costs of experts and secure the needed facilities for the project.

The agreement was signed on behalf of the Jordanian government by Planning Minister Hisham Khatib and on behalf of the German government by Ambassador to Jordan Heinrich Reimers.

In addition to its offering of training programmes for both diplomats and other personnel, the Institute for Diplomacy will also set up a research programme and information centre. Dr. Armuti said.

He emphasised that the institute would focus on "functional, utilitarian issues" of direct concern to the Kingdom rather than theoretical matters, although the foundation would retain a "semi-academic nature."

In research, said Dr. Armuti, "we will attempt to provide answers to basic research questions which need to be answered for the country's interests."

"We also hope to develop a database which will be a major information centre for the state on matters related to external relations and cooperation," he said.

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He emphasised, however, that beyond the November conference, it was too early to tell in what way the new institute might be involved with the peace issue.

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Back to 'old' school?

IN TWO days time, tens of thousands of young Jordanians will be heading back to school. The majority of those will return to class rooms after an attractive summer vacation full of activities. The majority of the students, however, will have spent the past months unable to fill leisure time usefully due to the lack of facilities available for most middle and lower class people. For the latter group, as well as for their parents, the holiday might as well be a burden. The parents had to put up with children who had nothing to do; the children turned the streets into playgrounds. The summer holiday was a boredom, a time wasted, young energies not given the chance to express themselves in a constructive way.

The schools to which the children will return will also offer different environments.

The lucky minority will go back to air-conditioned, well-equipped classrooms in private schools that will captivate the children who people them. Teachers there will, as required by their management, go out of their way to make the kids feel welcome. For most of those students, another year of enjoyable and rewarding learning will begin.

But such is not the case for the majority of Jordanians. The classrooms will be overcrowded, teaching aids not available and the hot August summer quenching all enthusiasm to start the new scholastic year in the right frame of mind. In these schools, the feeling of frustration will be shared by the teachers. These are the pillars of the educational process who feel forgotten by the system. They are underpaid, they are overworked, and many of them are waiting for the chance to leave this job to a better place of work. Those teachers will not go out of their way to welcome the children back.

That the educational system is declining is clear, like the case indeed is in so many other countries, including in the developed world. The results of the Tawjih exam with more than 50 per cent failing speak volumes for the deterioration that has crept into the educational system. But no action seems to be planned to remedy the situation.

The political changes taking place in the Middle East have been presented as a major force that will transform the area. There is no denying that the challenge that Jordan will face in the new times of peace requires as much, if not more, preparation than the state of war from which the region is trying to free itself. The new generation is the one that will eventually have to face the challenge, they have to be prepared. And the schools are the right place to start. A thorough and detailed plan to overhaul the educational system should start immediately. Reform at schools will eventually translate into reform in all sectors and aspects of the society and the economy. It will mean that Jordan will be able to face the challenge of peace and reap its opportunities. Otherwise, the country will end up with the same suffering and its cries will be in vain.

The beginning of the school year should be the beginning of reforms at our schools. Or, at the very least, we all should be talking and debating the subject.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Wednesday said that since Jordan's foreign policy was a reflection of its domestic policy, there was a need that the development and modernisation process go hand-in-hand with developing Jordan's relations at the international level, whether in economic, cultural, political or strategic fields. Within this context, we understand the objective of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majah's visit to the United States to deliver several lectures on the Middle East peace process and Jordan's role in it. The paper said that the premier asserted the need to maintain Jordan's presence in Western intellectual arenas. It is normal to say that Jordan's image at the international arena is a shining image which was painted by His Majesty King Hussein and which was enhanced by Jordan's credibility. This is what makes Jordan depicted by the media as an advocate of peace to an extent that made most of the world leaders voice their confidence in and support for King Hussein in addition to their understanding of the Kingdom's vital role in the region, whether during the peace process or after it is finished.

A COLUMNIST in AL RA'I Wednesday stressed that the public have to give their views on the unity of the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples in order to contain Jordanian-Palestinian differences. Sultan Al Hattab said that the Jordanian-Palestinian difference might be easy or difficult to solve, and might be of the type that exists between brothers or family members. He said these differences should first be recognised in order to be resolved. When the two sides meet, these differences seem non-existent and when they end their meeting the differences resurface, he said, stressing that the two sides should be frank when discussing problems. The columnist called for differentiating between the relations between the two peoples and the official relations that might get tense without the knowledge of the people and against their will.

The View From Academia

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubah

The 'popular' areas and the need for social action

THE COUNTRY's so-called "popular" areas, in many ways akin to what is called the "slum" or "ghetto" in other countries, are in need of both serious attention and serious social action, much more than they are presently receiving.

In these areas, which comprise the greater part of the capital and of the major Jordanian towns and cities, conditions are extremely unacceptable. These areas are crowded, overpopulated, disorderly, noisy, filthy, dusty and ugly. Most disturbingly, the quality of life for most people living in them, both at the physical and psychological level, is itself immensely poor.

There is no space, and there is no peace of mind. The houses are built so close to each other that a casual conversation, a heated debate, or a fight at your neighbour's house sounds like it is coming from within your own living room. The large vehicles are roaming night and day poisoning the air and deafening ears. Peddlers and salesmen of all sorts, are at it from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. The kids are ransacking and abusing public roads: when they are not playing soccer in the streets, they are throwing stones at each other for fun — damaging the cars standing nearby, the trees, the street lamps and even the telephone posts and the bricks in the sidewalk. Neither the kids themselves nor their parents seem to have any sense of or respect for public property, public space (whatever is left of it), or privacy. A friend of mine, who tells me his son, keeps saying: You cannot aptly understand the concept of the inferno of hell unless you live in these areas.

The ideal solution lies in drastic surgery, partial demolition or total removal of these areas. Luckily, some of this is already happening — in two ways. First, many of the younger men and women who are not happy living where they live, especially those who have been able to secure a good job or those anxious to start a family in a more liveable neighbourhood, are moving out. Secondly, the various housing projects which have recently been successfully implemented in many regions throughout the country, such as the one sponsored by the Directorate of Urban Development, have encouraged many low-income families to change their place of habitat. These two steps, which have undoubtedly improved the Jordanian urban landscape as well as the demographic image, are welcome news.

But not everyone is willing or can afford to relocate. Due to population increase, many of these areas are in fact flourishing and expanding. Newly-married couples who are unable to meet the expenses of life outside these areas continue to live in them, consuming newer space or crowding the already-crowded homes of their parents or relatives. What do we do?

In addition to finding appropriate space for kids to play in (such as school playgrounds after school or empty areas nearby), to planting more trees and gardens (and protecting them), to restricting the movement of large vehicles, to prevent the building of new houses or apartments except according to proper specifications, we need to focus on

improving the quality of life itself. Upon this point I wish to insist here. Those who live in the "popular" areas are people who, like everyone else on God's green earth, appreciate and enjoy (even when they do not appear to) fresh air, cleanliness, tranquillity, peace of mind and privacy.

Towards this general end, some serious social, sociological, or anthropological action ought to be taken, by both the governmental institutions concerned (such as the Ministry of Development) and the various volunteer or charity groups, whose services are insufficiently offered or totally unmet. A great deal is to be done here. The main thing, however, is the creation and promotion of community consciousness. This is the cause of most inconveniences and problems in these highly underdeveloped areas. What is needed is for a social worker to visit people in their homes constantly and enthusiastically (not just symbolically or sporadically) and attempt to explain ways and eliminate some bad habits, practices, or modes of behaviour which harm the community at large. People need to learn to watch their behaviour or act more carefully and to be more sensitive to the needs of others. People can learn to be less loud in their conversation, to throw garbage in the trash containers not on the pavement, to care for the few trees in the few gardens and on sidewalk, and not to break street lamps, etc. There is so much work for the social worker or the caring citizen to do.

The other day, I saw a little girl (not more than 7 or 8), barefooted, dragging a heavy plastic bucket (not a trash bag) full of garbage, heading in the direction of the trash container some 100 metres away. Her hands were deep inside whatever garbage there was in the bucket; the bucket was so heavy that she kept dragging it and resting; the fifth inside it dripped at every pull she made. When she finally made it to the container, she dumped what was left next to it, for she was unable to lift it all the way up. She wiped the sweat off her forehead with her dirty hands and left. Two kids were playing hide and seek closeby, one of them was barefooted, stepped in the garbage several times. A few cans then came and scattered the garbage all over the place.

Much can be said about this incident, which is only one out of many. One can talk about the noise the bucket made (which drew my attention in the first place), about the filth that dripped, about the parental abuse of the poor child, about her health, etc. And about how to solve problems of this nature.

Neighbours in our part of the world find it difficult to accept comments or advice from fellow neighbours, assuming the latter care to speak or are aware of communal problems. For this reason, we want more specialised, more formalised help in addressing community problems in the popular areas, help such that coming from social workers who need to make themselves a little more visible than they currently are.

In my opinion, social work at this stage in our society's development is as crucial (perhaps even more) as our ability to negotiate a satisfactory peace settlement with Israel.

When will Israel bury the bully club?

By Yael Dayan

The writer is a Labour MK. The article is reprinted from the Jerusalem Post.

IT BEGAN in subdued tones, a matter of style.

"We know whom we're dealing with (the PLO and its chief). Let them sweat a little. That's all there is."

There was no mention of

chemistry or physiology or

the values separating the

people, not just the leaders.

"They" (those who, by

implication, are not us) are

not capable of, and

don't even want to, live

democratically, efficiently,

collecting taxes and main-

taining a judicial, economic

or health system.

We, of course, abide by

High Court rulings, the

Declaration of Independence,

egalitarian and liberal leg-

islation; we have no corrup-

tion or cumbersome

bureaucracy. We shall not

pass a law limiting imports

for reasons of kashrut; we

have no agunot (abandoned

wives or widows forbidden

to re-wed), no persons dis-

qualified for marriage.

Perhaps we should recall

that their war of independ-

ence was not fought in the

northern Norwegian forests

or on Washington's lawns.

The intifada was unleashed

out of despair, using nails

and claws, stones; at a

heavier cost than imagined;

and it succeeded.

"They" — "those who

understand only force" —

speak to us (who are rich in-

languages) in the language of

force, and we understand

— and how! By way of the

intifada we grit our teeth

and recognised the PLO and

Arafat. And with much

disgust and queasiness we

even got to that handshake

in Washington.

Yet the account is not

balanced. And while today

it is clear that we have quit

Gaza, we are not relieved

of the need to be occupiers

and the deep feeling that

they are interior and will

remain so — of course,

"through no fault of ours."

We have not freed

ourselves from the thought

that a Palestinian state will

arise only as a reward from

us for their good behaviour;

that we are the giving side,

they receiving. ("And what

have they been giving?"

people here ask. And the

answer is that, with diffi-

culty, they are shaking off

their chains and handcuffs,

temporarily and to a limited

degree).

It's as if we weren't there

for 27 years, responsible for

the good and the bad, for

the welfare and security of

the residents. As if we

are ungrateful. It is

allowed them to develop and have relations with the rest of the world, and impose insurance payments or computer listings in the population Registry. They are told to "prove they are entitled" to our charity, without any understanding that what they get will be by right.

Our violations of the agreement are no fewer than theirs; but we totally lack the magnanimity of the victor, the strong, the set-

iated.

There is no symmetry be-

tween those shooting and those weeping, between those shot and the weepers.

The work we provided for them served the idleness of our economy and its cal- culations more than it did the Gazans.

Intentionally or by force of inertia we were both military occupiers and oppressors of all initiatives. Gazans were forbidden for years to acquire facsimile machines, out of fear they would be vehicles for incite-

ment.

This is in complete con-

trast to Sharon, Shamir,

Rabin, Peres

The bottom line

By Jean-Claude Elias

If, for a while, we put aside the megabytes, the megahertz and all the hype that surrounds computers, what do we have left? A tool that for some is still a mystery but for others has become a device as familiar as a telephone set. A tool that is sometimes loved for itself but often serves as a means to accomplish certain tasks.

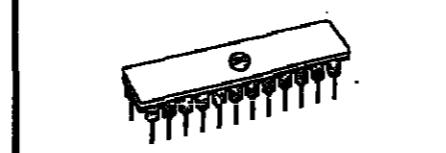
We use computers to perform tasks that, for us, are unthinkable manually, like handling huge amounts of data (the telephone book of New York City for instance). Or for complex mathematical calculations that would be not only too difficult but also very long to perform manually.

However, beyond the complex, the huge or the sophisticated, is the daily, simple work that we have learned to process using computers: word processing, book keeping, drawing, music making, filing, etc. In all these tasks that could otherwise be done manually, the machine helps us to do them better and faster. In other words, with greater efficiency.

The new peace situation in the area has brought fresh, positive prospects. In this scope the press has extensively reported the concern of people from all classes of society and various professional backgrounds to be up to the new challenge. We all realise that we have to improve the way we work. Whatever we are doing, we must do it with a higher efficiency.

Making a better use of computers to improve all kinds of work, at all levels and in all fields of activity is

chip talk



something we must start doing now. This is the age of information. We know it. But knowing it is not enough. Practical steps must be taken for a good management, a dynamic utilisation of information.

Computers, the main tools of processing information, are not only useful to make us reach our goal, I dare say that they are absolutely vital.

It is high time that the way we think about our personal computers (PC) evolves. Our worry should not be to concentrate on the machine's size or power. Any PC is worth having and using. Many organisations are doing a fine job with 8 years old, 80286-based equipment.

What we must improve are our skills at using the PCs. Attending specialised training courses is important and can make us move ahead on the road to efficiency. Computer awareness at school level should be enhanced. Though officially implemented, school computer programmes do not seem to fulfill the demand for the time being. A lot remains to be done in this domain.

Learning to learn effectively

By Stella G. Bagaaen

Learning to learn is not a new idea. Emile Rousseau in 1762 aimed to develop attitudes and methods of learning prior to acquisition of knowledge. Since 1956, this topic has become a field of research. Information processing and cybernetics were the stimuli, but few of the ideas were filtered into the traditional schools curricula.

Sound learning strategies and effective learning is a must, it is not a matter of intelligence, age or years of experience, it is the knowledge of how to set, plan ahead, monitor one's performance, check and self-test the needs of a specific situation. To have a taste for sciences and the methods for learning them is more mature than the poor strategies like skipping difficult parts and not identifying key points, memorising details instead of looking for principles. Responding flexibly to the burst of knowledge needs style, a strong strategy and an approach to harness the potential of learners.

As far as training in study procedures is concerned, it should be based on understanding the individual needs, since the latter part of the 19th century scientific methods of teaching became necessary to the training of teachers who were to operate in a new setting of teacher-pupil and subject-matter relations, according to the American educationist Francis W. Parker. What mattered in a school was the child's own development. The school should be fitted to the needs of the child, and not the child to the school. Educational psychology became a necessity. A major shift was from the imposition of knowledge on the mind of the learner to an emphasis on the learner's activity of perception and comprehension of knowledge. Quality teaching was stressed by which it meant such things as activity, creative self-expression, excursions, understanding the individual, and the development of personality. During the first decade of the 20th century, educationists Maria Montessori of Rome and Ovide Decroly of Brussels both stressed the child-centred education and that teachers must invent their own methods and special apparatus to meet the needs of slow learners. New methods replaced the authoritarian approach of the traditional educator. The father of progressive education, John Dewey, whose writings and lectures influenced educators throughout the world, laid the foundations of a new philosophy that affected the structure of education, particularly at the elementary level. The child should be enabled to understand and to be understood.

What are the individual needs? What common themes should be identified? Learners should get much attention. Teachers must find out the rate at

which the learners gain more self-awareness. In fact, the foundation of self-awareness is laid in the early or middle years of adolescence when there is a marked development in mental functioning and a change from concrete operations to formal reasoning, mastering elementary skills and moving into more complex activities.

There are some common themes to be identified like study time, home work, discipline, note-taking, presentation of material, revision methods for examination, discussion groups, some techniques of self-directed learning, collaborative learning, resource based learning, learning from teachers and alternative ways of learning from radio, television, other media and everyday experience.

Effective learning is achieved by means of certain strategies:

★ To develop an autonomy, to acquire an attitude or approach to cultivate habitual dispositions.

★ To learn rules and master general principles, always try to transfer to related situations, never be tied to one subject. Any skill should be generalised to new problems or novel situations.

★ To promote cultural growth and modes of learning, refinement, taste, intelligence, cultivation of the mind, action, evolution of thinking, a wide scope and depth of knowledge, structural and functional traits, attitudes, concepts, techniques, tools etc.

★ To expand knowledge by self inquiry in order to determine whether comprehension is occurring. We need to organise, digest material, monitor ongoing activities, to review, estimate, assume, presume and summarise.

★ The curriculum should be designed to comprise basic forms of knowledge, the learner should be able to seek information when he needs it and become independent.

Innovation, modernisation, adaptability and many other dimensions of culture are motives to generalise different strategies of learning beyond classrooms. With the pace of technological change the years of compulsory education is unable to offer much. Extensive knowledge is needed. More methods and attitudes are to be undertaken especially during the coming scholastic years. Much emphasis should be put upon technical and scientific skills to service the modern sector of the economy.

The acceleration of development needs plans that coordinate the different levels of education. The World Bank has attached priority in its development plans to the provision of technical specialists who can lead the country into self-sufficiency in technical, scientific and other specialist skills as the educational system is an integral part in the development process.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuaib

HOWLERS

* Trouser: An uncommon noun because it is singular on top and plural at the bottom.

★ ★ ★ ★

* Dress: Woman's constant endeavour to improve on her skin.

★ ★ ★ ★

* Hat: An article worn by men to conceal the shape of their heads.

★ ★ ★ ★

* Pyjamas: Garments that newly-weds place beside the bed in case of fire.

★ ★ ★ ★

* Lapel: The only tangible thing to be grasped in an argument.

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

— This is a large house.
— This is a small flat.

Hadha manzil kabir.
Hadhihi shuqqa saghir.

TIME FOR FUN

* FIRST: My grandfather was a wealthy man. When he died he left \$3,000,000.

Someplace called home

By E. Yaghi

You know Mr. American Ambassador sir. I was up at your place the other day. Say, it's swell all right. I was very overwhelmed by those twin sandstone buildings looming on the crest of a parched hill like an artificial oasis way out in the middle of nowhere in a place where flowers should grow and artificial palm trees sway in the breeze and the sun when it shines, bakes everything around to a brittle crust. Please don't be offended though by my article, for my intention is not to belittle but to express my feelings as an American citizen. You see, I've always had this philosophy that the American embassy in whatever country it might be, is like a little piece of the U.S. Therefore, to any American citizen, going there should be just like going home. Well, I'm sorry to say that the homecoming reception isn't always all that it should be.

Some of the native staff who work at the embassy are really super and go out of their way to be extra special nice and polite. As for the Americans who I have come in contact with, they are also cordial, kind and helpful, but the only problem is, that we American citizens hardly ever see them anymore, and instead are dealt with by the local people. Now, mind, I'm not prejudiced against any person regardless of what his/her country of origin is, but I do sometimes get that nagging sensation that some people who work in the embassy take their work too much to heart and get rather stuffy and rude about their positions as if they belonged to some kind of elite social club. I think they might need some lessons in tact!

The other day, I met a beautiful native girl who works at your place. She really did offer me a gracious smile and if I hadn't been already burned by her abrupt behaviour on an earlier occasion, I might not have detected that icy gleam in her eye that conflicted with the otherwise cheerful expression on her face.

Well, OK, forget about the clerk or secretary or whatever she's supposed to be. Let's go on to the library. Now, I realise that I'm being wretchedly complaining about the library, especially since some people have taken great pains to make it as it is. Therefore, forgive me if I just state that it really puzzles me that the librarian is kind of stuffy and doesn't seem to speak much English, or if she does, then she must be keeping such knowledge a secret and is camouflaging her fluent command of the language. Her helper seems to be in even a worse state and although friendly, polite, and so forth, perhaps speaks Greek better than English. Also, the library seems so meager as far as the supply of books goes with the exception of American literature of which there is an abundance. Yet, on other subjects, I must say that the variety of books is disappointing and that there is much to be desired. (For example, I could find no information

about the subject of geography or human geography). And of course, there are no children's books whatsoever and all I can ask is, why? Are you trying to tell me that the only superpower in the world doesn't have enough money to spend on an adequate library? Come on now!

As for transportation, Mr. Ambassador, you have ever tried to get a ride, (not counting your personal escort of course) or walk down that long hill and up the other one once leaving your home? I'll tell you, in the summer heat, that up and down hill walking seems like the longest road in the world with not a taxi in sight. And not a stand anywhere to sell even a cold drink so that whoever has to walk the journey of no return will thirst to death by the time he/she reaches home if he/she ever does. Well I know that the embassy is like a place of business, for I see all those poor people flocking to your doors in order to be able to obtain a visa just to visit the golden American shores and I figure that every person who applies for a visa has to pay a certain fee and that many applications are rejected. Thus, I assume that applications and re-applications add up to a handsome sum of money. Couldn't some of this money be used in such a way as to make the embassy, your and my home away from home, a more accommodating place for the guests that it receives?

And couldn't some of your staff, not the polite and friendly and courteous ones, but those stuffy and cold zombies just smile a bit more? Remember that good old commercial attitude in America that "the customer is always right?" Consider all who come to your gates as customers who seek refuge, help, advice, solace and nostalgia within your confines. It is the duty of the American embassy, not just in times of emergencies which I hear you are superb at, but also in times of calm, to serve the American citizens regardless of whatever walk of life they come from, whatever colour of skin they might possess and whatever creed they might follow. It should be a motto of your embassy, (that island of America where we Americans should feel at home), that no one wears his intelligence or dignity on his clothes or his looks, but in his mind and heart.

Remember that each employee of your embassy is an unofficial ambassador of American foreign policy and an example of U.S. diplomacy. Please understand that I do not suggest firing any member of your staff, for this would be very cruel, but for those who are weak in English, they could always take lessons to improve their communicative abilities. As for those who are big headed, they could always deflate themselves a bit. And your place, instead of being in the middle of nowhere could be in the middle of somewhere, easily accessible by car and bus.

Quality management and the role of the consultant

Prepared by Rafeek Jerees (Management Consultant)
TEAM International (Jordan)

Quality is a journey which has milestones, rather than a destination. It must be a continuing concern of a company's management, not something that is done once, then forgotten.

Managing a quality company is more than just implementing a quality system consisting of a set of techniques that meet, for example, ISO 9000 standards. It is the creation of a quality culture which permeates the entire organisation. The characteristics of such a culture include: dedication to customer satisfaction; emphasis on continuous improvement; treating suppliers as business partners; communication and team work; empowering employees and commitment by top management.

The success of a quality programme depends on the commitment of top management. Quality cannot simply be delegated. Not to a quality champion, and certainly not to an external quality consultant. Management itself must take control and ownership of the quality issue.

The primary steps in initiating a quality programme are:

Creating quality awareness and team spirit within the organisation; agreeing detailed project plan; identifying key responsibilities and adequately training key people.

A quality consultant can play a major role in helping a company to develop and implement a quality programme, as such a consultant will be

deeply involved in the company's development. Choosing a suitable quality consultant should therefore be approached in the same way as the recruitment of senior staff member.

In managing a quality improvement programme, the advice of an experienced quality consultant can help to:

Structure the project effectively; reduce implementation time scale and provide much needed direction to staff.

The consultant's role is mainly an advisory one, although a more "hands-on" approach may be required in the early stages, to get the programme started. During the assignment, the consultant should:

— Conduct a preliminary study to establish where the client company stands vis-a-vis quality (quality assessment);

— Prepare a training programme to ensure that all key personnel receive adequate training for their duties in relation to the quality plan;

— Supervise the production of the quality manual;

— Provide guidance in selecting a suitable quality certification scheme, and assist in the preparation for certification audit.

— Monitor and regularly review progress against the plan;

— Organise and report on the proceedings of formal quality audits;

— Produce and circulate project status and progress reports and

— Propose and agree a time scale for implementing the plan.

Sociable and has many acquaintances.
Fond of variety and change and trips.
Whatever may be the situation he has the power to get out of it.
Though nervous, he is shrewd, amiable and adaptable.
Likes family life and children.
His pleasures are mainly mental.

PUZZLES

(A) In the list of words below, a number of letters are missing. These are indicated by asterisks. Each group of missing letters is the name of an animal. Can you find the animal names that will complete the words?

(1) EDU ★ ★ ★ ION

(2) PY ★ ★ ★ ID

(3) P ★ ★ ★ AGE

(4) BIL ★ ★ ★ AIRE

(5) C ★ ★ ★ ER

(B) Where does 13 fit into the following pattern?

1 2 6
4 5 9
3 7 8

YOUR CHARACTER IN FOCUS

Born on 5th June

— Very skillful and has intuition.
— Proficient in games.
— Likes oratory and eloquence in expressing himself.
— Has the capacity to pursue his objectives and knows very well how to plan for success.

JTV

life plays
Emile
although

A fencing
Mark

lets one

Linda Gray surrounded by young girls on *Models, Inc.*

By Lynn Elber
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — How does 33-year-old Linda Gray compete with the flock of sweet young things in *Models Inc.*? She keeps her clothes on and keeps matters in perspective, the actress says.

"I look at their bodies and their faces and think, 'thank God it's you and not me that has to wear those things with the bare midriffs,'" says Gray, who stars as a modelling agency owner in the New Fox series.

Besides, her character — dynamic businesswoman Hillary Michaels wouldn't indulge in such fashion giddiness, Gray says.

"She doesn't have time for all that stuff," she says. "Let kids wear the skimpy clothes and hang out on the beach. I will be there in my suit, carrying my big L.A. bag filled with my cellular phone and filofax."

To her dismay, even a close friend questioned Gray's willingness to wade

into a series awash with beauties in their tense and early 20s.

"My girlfriend said, 'how do you have the guts to go in front of the camera with these girls?' I looked at her and thought, 'what kind of a statement is that?'"

"I said, 'you've got to be kidding.' I respect them, I admire their bodies and faces, but I'm holding my own. I'm doing OK."

Aaron Spelling, executive producer of *Models Inc.*, a spinoff of his *Melrose Place*, agrees, Gray's sexy beauty is part of the reason he cast her, he says.

"We wanted to find a woman who could fall in love, have romance. The cliché that women over 40 don't make love or fall in love is a bunch of trash," Spelling says.

"It's perfect for the role and she will have romantic interests."

In an early episode, Spelling made good on that promise: Sparks and a kiss passed between Gray and a police detective.

"I have my family near me, and that's the most

important grounding and centering area of my life."

Gray first read about the part of Hillary in a tabloid magazine while with her grandchild in a doctor's waiting room. A brief item mentioned the name of several actresses. Gray's peers, being considered for the role.

"I called my agent and he said, 'hey, we're all over it,'" Gray recounts, her scepticism showing. A few days later, after a brief meeting with Spelling and other *Models* producers, she had the role.

Hillary was introduced on *Melrose Place* as the estranged mother of that series' scheming vamp, Amanda, played by Heather Locklear. As initially conceived, Hillary had a toucher edge, says Gray, a model herself before turning to acting.

"Aaron and everybody else wanted her to be the bitch, in capital letters," she says. "But then they realised at this stage in a women's life you don't have to do that. You're hopefully more rounded... and life itself kind of mel-

lows you.

"I said I want her to have a conscience, a heart, vulnerability, I want her to be feisty, funny, outrageous at times, and nasty when she has to be nasty."

As Sue Ellen Ewing, and oilman's trophy wife on *Dallas*, Gray's look was that of a pampered creature of the excessive '80s. She's adopted a far different style for *Models*.

"The jewellery is minimal, I wear a watch and small earrings. And the suits are very nice, but they're very businesslike," she says. "I'm wearing Richard Tyler, Donna Karan, Calvin Klein. And my hair is simple. A businesswoman doesn't have time to fuss."

Gray wasn't constrained by expectations about how older women should or shouldn't look.

"I didn't go dowdy. I didn't go matronly," she says. "It's sort of hip, cool; a businesswoman for the '90s."

That's how the tenacious Gray sees herself: An actress for the '90s —



Linda Gray in *Dallas*

and beyond.

"I could have done *Dallas* and said that's it," she says. "I think a lot of

people get caught in that and disposed of. It's like you've had your 15 minutes of fame."

"I think 'how dare any one say you're finished.' My two great buzzwords are: 'Watch me.'"

Healing Vietnam-American wounds

By Denis D. Gray
The Associated Press

BANGKOK — A Hollywood actress who once starred in martial arts movies has made an acclaimed film that seeks to close the wounds Vietnamese and Americans still carry from the Vietnam War.

Rather than feature battlefield action and political machinations, From Hollywood To Hanoi focuses on filmmaker Tiana Alexandra herself, who left Vietnam as a child, drifted to Hollywood and returned to her homeland six years ago to find her roots.

The documentary mixes interviews with senior

Communist leaders and Gen. William Westmoreland, who commanded U.S. troops during the war, with scenes of daily Vietnamese life and Tiana's reflections on her emotional homecoming. There are even cuts from her corny B-movies.

"My mission, if you will, is to build this bridge between two cultures, my two selves," says the filmmaker, who calls herself Tiana and prefers not to use her last name. "I want to tell both sides: 'the war is over.'"

The film, which officially premieres in Los Angeles in August, already has won several awards at film festivals and rave reviews from cri-

tics. It also was screened to U.S. congressmen with an interest in Vietnam.

But Communist officials have complained about scenes showing Vietnamese mistreating Americans, while the anti-Communist Vietnamese in the United States have accused the filmmaker of using actress rather than real survivors of the massacre of Vietnamese villagers by U.S. troops at My Lai.

One of the staunchest anti-Communists, Tiana — whose Vietnamese name is Du Thi Than Nga — is sensitive to prejudice and racism.

"When I was a child, some would tell me: 'your people are kill our boys. What are you? A slant-

eyed Commie? A VC? A gook?'" she recalled. "To avoid all this my younger sister told everybody she was Japanese."

Tiana, 32, said in an interview that her documentary is a "letter" or a "fax" to her father to return to Vietnam and let go of some of the prejudices he and many Americans have about the country.

As an Asian-American who grew up during the Vietnam War, Tiana — whose Vietnamese name is Du Thi Than Nga — is sensitive to prejudice and racism.

"I'm critical of my own industry. There's been this policy in Hollywood to make money at any cost," she said.

She said some movies depict almost every Vietnamese as "an evil Fu Man Chu only out to eat our boys."

But she has high praise

for filmmaker Oliver Stone who has tried to make changes with such movies as *Platoon*, *Born On The Fourth Of July* and the recent *Heaven And Earth*. Stone is executive producer of Tiana's documentary.

Tiana said her plans include a television miniseries called *The War Is Over: A New Vietnam*, and the creation of two film art schools for underprivileged children in Vietnam.

In December, she hopes to stage a cultural festival in Hanoi, during which Hollywood To Hanoi will be shown publicly. She said American politicians and artists will be invited to attend.

car turnover in the desert and put it on a New York street. You can make a big bang by computer, whereas doing it live would be too expensive. If it draws people in the theatre, that's good. Any time an action picture is a success, it helps the business."

Meanwhile, SAG is closely monitoring the situation, and remains concerned.

"But we cannot foresee a situation where actors will be reproduced by computers," a SAG spokesman said. "Film-makers will still depend on performers to give movies the sense of depth, movement and human emotion. You can never duplicate the human soul."

In *Terminator II*, for example, Robert Patrick was converted into an automation. The actor was filmed in the action, then his image was copied on computers using the rotoscope process.

The computer revolution is not the first new technology that has caused concern in the film industry. When sound was introduced in the late 1920s, many industry leaders predicted it was impractical. It was too expensive to convert studios and equip theatres, they said.

The great Irving Thalberg predicted: "Sound will be an important adjunct to the industry, but it won't replace the silent movie."

10

11



Tiana Alexandra

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Aug. 25

7:15 *Battlestar Galactica*

8:30 *Heart Of Courage*

9:10 *Murder She Wrote*

10:00 *News In English*

10:20 *Movie Of The Week*

Friday, Aug. 26

8:30 *The Munsters Today*

9:10 *E.N.G.*

Hero

Jake plays a heroic act. Is he going to be praised by his boss?

10:00 *News In English*

10:20 *Emilie*

Emilie goes ahead with her plans to marry Henry although, deep inside, she is waiting to hear from Emilie.

Saturday, Aug. 27

8:30 *Movies, Games And Videos*

9:30 *The Campbells*

Life By The Sword

A fencing match is held by Dr. Campbell and Simms.

10:00 *News In English*

10:20 *Movie Of The Week*

Sunday, Aug. 28

8:30 *Step By Step*

Thirteen With A Bullet

Mark celebrates his thirteenth birthday — a day he gets one big disappointment.

9:10 *Quantum Leap*

Do computer images threaten movie jobs?

By Bob Thomas
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Tom Hanks shakes hands with John F. Kennedy. A Florida causeway is destroyed by an explosion. Two current hit movies feature those startling scenes, both created by a computer.

As seen in *Forrest Gump* and *True Lies*, such innovations have prompted some to worry that computers may play a major role in future filmmaking, perhaps endangering the livelihood of stunt players and other performers.

Stop worrying, advises a cross section of industry folks. If anything, they say, computers may supply work. Digital Pictures Inc., for example, hired 45 stunt players from the Screen Actors Guild (SAG) for a one-hour, action-packed interactive video, *Ground Zero Texas*.

Still, veteran stuntman and director Terry Leonard takes a cautious view. In New York for *Dic Hard III*, he planned a crash scene on city streets that he figured would require 15 stuntmen. By using optical effects and a split screen, he hired only five.

Leonard, whose credits include *Apocalypse Now*, *Romancing the Stone*, *The Fugitive* (the train crash) and *Maverick* (the stagecoach chase), believes that com-

puter imaging "will affect a lot of things in filmmaking as we know it today."

"I'm afraid the stuntman entering the business today is not going to find it as lucrative as in the past," he said. "In fact, raising horses is looking more attractive to me than staging stunts, much as I love it. As soon as my boys get out of high school, I may start slowing down."

Donna Keegan, who doubled for Jamie Lee Curtis in the limo-helicopter stunt in *True Lies*, serves as chairwoman for the SAG's stunt and safety committee, and says computers should concern everyone.

"Look how factory jobs have been lost because of computers," she said. "There is fear among stunt people, but we are in constant negotiations to make sure they are protected."

"Computer imaging is hot today, but I think the situation will be much like the music industry. Twenty years ago, everything was synthesised music. That lasted three to five years until people decided the ear doesn't want totally perfect sound. They would rather hear real music instead of max headroom."

Keegan cited an example of how computers have made stunts safer: "I did a 320-foot (97-metre) fall for Jamie in *Mother's Boys*. I used a

car turnover in the desert and put it on a New York street. You can make a big bang by computer, whereas doing it live would be too expensive. If it draws people in the theatre, that's good. Any time an action picture is a success, it helps the business."

Linda Fetter, who underwent 5½ hours of makeup for stunts as the catwoman in *Star Trek V*, said that some members of the Stuntwoman's Association have been called for interactive videos.

"So far, computers haven't worked against us," she said. "They're not a great concern for us. We're women, so that automatically makes us a minority, and we're constantly fighting that."

Bryan Unger of the Directors Guild of America monitors changing technology. "In the short term, we see no threat to our members," he said. "Directors still oversee special effects, no matter how they are created. We want to make sure our directors are aware of the latest developments, and we have been meeting with the various manufacturers."

"I don't think computer imaging will hurt us in the long run," said Max Kleven, who has directed action for *Batman Returns*, *The Future* trilogy, *Who Framed Roger Rabbit* and *Robin Hood, Prince Of Thieves*.

"The business is changing. Now, you can stage a

A man, caught in a love triangle, is about to kill his wife.

Tuesday, Aug. 30

7:30 *Innovations*

8:30 *Hollywood Stunt Makers*

9:10 *The Commish*

Return To The Screen Door

The commissioner helps a battered woman.

10:00 *News In English*

10:20 *Rose Against The Odds*

Wednesday, Aug. 31

8:30 *Bob*

9:10 *The Nature Of Things*

10:00 *News In English*

10:20 *Nanny*

11:00 *Poldark*

Ross is behind the provocative attempts to spread the principles of the French Revolution.

Africans slowly breaking AIDS taboo

By Amba Dadson

The Associated Press
ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast

When Juliana Gbami's husband died three years ago, doctors told her the cause was kidney failure. Just kidney failure.

Three months later, when Gbami was stricken with recurring fevers, diarrhoea and chronic fatigue, they said he'd really had AIDS. And now, so did she.

"And that's when I collapsed and really fell ill," said the Ivorian, a retired social worker.

Even while it consumes the continent, many people in Africa can't bring themselves to even mention AIDS. Experts say that's one of the reasons the deadly disease is spreading.

Ms. Gbami is a member

of something almost unheard of in Africa: An AIDS support group dedicated to breaking the fatal taboo of silence.

"It started very, very tentatively," said Dr. Marc Aguirre, an American doctor at the Medical and Social Assistance Centre, a counselling centre financed by the Church of Christ.

"A lot of these people are very reticent. But we basically had a party and got people talking about themselves."

That is rare indeed in Africa, which accounts for 10 million of the world's 16 million infections of HIV, the virus that causes acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), according to the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Experts say a cultural modesty and deep reluctance to be the bearer of bad news — even among some doctors — is a powerful social force.

"Africans with AIDS do not go and see their doctors, because of our traditional sense of modesty and shame," said Yaya Diallo, a Senegalese sociologist at the University of Dakar.

"They prefer to 'leave it to God' to decide their fate and try traditional medicine."

Ms. Gbami said she had to fight to get her doctor to admit that her husband had AIDS. The doctor, an old friend of her husband's, never could face her, she said. Instead, he sent two other doctors to take her into a private room and break the news.

The support group, which began meeting weekly in July, represents a quiet revolution that has even compelled some people to become community awareness crusaders.

"It want to tell people that with HIV you can still live. It is not the end of the world," said Etienne Tape, who organised the group he dubbed "The Friends Club."

"When you mention AIDS, everyone is afraid," said Tape, 28, who was diagnosed as HIV-positive in March.

"No one even wants to touch you. I have friends like me who have been chased out of their houses, who are all alone."

Not here, club meetings, which draw 35 to 40 people are lively, positive, animated. The pretty

teenage girl, the soft-spoken Gbami, the lanky father of four — all are either carriers of HIV or sufferers of its most advanced ravages.

Comfortable chairs are arranged in a circle. A stereo belts out pop hits. The unusually frank and intimate chat ranges from health issues to politics to the deeply devastating emotional toll the disease has taken.

Tall, handsome, fashionably dressed with a blonde streak dyed into a hip-hop haircut, Tape is a big fan of American pop

culture and the National Basketball Association.

Though he took the news of his disease hard, he also took inspiration from his idol, retired NBA star Earvin "Magic" Johnson, who has the AIDS virus but still has a robust life.

Tape doesn't know from who he contracted the virus, but admits to a "rather wild life" of one-night stands and random sex.

After the initial shock of the positive blood test,

Tape devoured what literature he could find about the disease and began interviewing doctors at the Medical and Social Assistance Clinic.

He heard about the Nairobi, Kenya-based African network of people living with HIV and visited one of their meetings. Then he helped start the friends club.

"I want to be a symbol for young people with AIDS in Ivory Coast," he said. "I dress up smartly and hold my head high."

'Start early to stop children from smoking'

By Brenda C. Coleman
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Parents who want to keep their children from using tobacco should begin their efforts as soon as kindergarten, the American Heart Association says.

"We can show that we already have fixed smokers by the third grade," said Dr. Gerald S. Berenson, who led a session on tobacco at the association's first children's heart health conference.

"And we joke about it (not being younger) because the second-graders can't read the questionnaire," he added.

Dr. Berenson is the principal investigator of the Bogalusa Heart Study, which has been tracking thousands of children's heart risks from the time they were born 20 years ago in Bogalusa, La.

The Heart Association planned to release its first scientific statement on smoking and children's health.

In February, a U.S. Surgeon General's report

called smoking an adolescent addiction. The report estimated that 13 per cent of 12- to 18-year-olds — 3.1 million youngsters — smoke cigarettes, and that 1 million use snuff or chewing tobacco.

Dr. Samuel S. Gidding, who co-chaired the smoking session, said youngsters need to be helped even before birth.

"We need to work on the mothers to not smoke, so either as fetuses or as young children, they don't get the passive smoke," he said.

For older children, "we need to create a climate that counters the large and pervasive effects of advertising by the tobacco industry," said Dr. Gidding, director of preventive cardiology at Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago.

The tobacco industry spent \$5.23 billion on advertising in 1992, according to the latest federal trade commission figures, said Dr. Michael Eriksen, director of the Office on Smoking and

Health at the Federal Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

That was more than triple the CDC's entire budget that year.

"It's mind-boggling. The numbers are difficult to grasp," Dr. Eriksen said.

Tobacco companies hotly deny that their advertising targets children. An American Medical Association study, however, showed that sales of Camel cigarettes to children increased from \$6 million to \$476 million in the four years after "Joe Camel" cartoon ads were introduced.

Dr. Berenson, director of the Tulane Centre for Cardiovascular Health in New Orleans, said preventing heart disease in future generations will require educating children in kindergarten and earlier against smoking.

"We'd like to get it down to head start," he said, referring to the federally funded preschool programme for

poor youngsters.

The smoking rate seems to have levelled off in teens, but the use of smokeless tobacco is rising, said Steven Y. Sussman, an associate professor of preventive medicine at the University of Southern California.

Unfortunately, anti-smoking efforts probably boost the use of smokeless tobacco, which many people mistakenly believe is less harmful, he said.

Last year, Surgeon General Jocelyn Elders warned that increasing use of smokeless tobacco among youths may foreshadow an epidemic of oral cancer. Ms. Elders said that chewing tobacco, like cigarettes, speeds the heartbeat, raises blood pressure and promotes damage to arteries.

Researchers have linked tobacco smoke to heart disease as well as lung and other cancers, emphysema, asthma and other diseases. They have blamed it for almost 500,000 premature deaths a year.

After five years of uninterrupted research, three French geneticists from the "Genethon" Laboratory, Professor Daniel Cohen, Dr. Ilya Chumakov and Dr. Jean Weissenbach, have succeeded in establishing the "physical map" of 90 per cent of the human genome. Although it is, as yet, incomplete, this map is an extremely precious tool for researchers all over the world. It will make it possible to very quickly identify a large number of genes responsible for hereditary diseases.

PARIS — This map, drawn up by French geneticists, is one of the major objectives of the world "Human Genome" programme, launched in 1990 by American and European researchers which aims to decrypt the 3.5 billion elements of our DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid).

The physical map of the genome is presented in the form of 33,000 little tubes, each one containing a portion of DNA. These tubes have been numbered and arranged according to the position held by each fragment in the chromosomes.

In order to obtain this result, the researchers of the Genethon set about a global exploration of our genetic heritage. First of all, they took DNA from ten cells which they cut up into thousands of pieces. Each fragment was then duplicated millions of times through a complex cloning mechanism and, after minutely re-cutting the pieces with the help of powerful computers, their order was resequenced.

Our genetic heritage is borne by 23 pairs of homologous chromosomes which we inherited from our parents (in each pair one chromosome is provided by the mother and the other by the father). These chromosomes are made up of DNA. They contain all the biological instructions enabling the original cell, the fertilised ovum, to divide up into several billion cells. The latter, through a process known as differentiation, will diversify and form our tissues (liver, skin and muscles). The DNA is a long molecule made of a chain of four fundamental sub-units, called bases and symbolised by the four letters A, T, G and C, respectively for adenine, thymine, guanine and cytosine.

Indeed, in the cells, the DNA presents itself in the form of a very confused and almost impenetrable threadlike network. When a researcher attempts to locate a faulty gene, he has to break the DNA into thousands of pieces in order to make it accessible, and then, with the help of a genetic marker (a gene which is known and transmitted at the same time as the disease and which, following a basic law of genetics, must be situated in the same chromosome region as the gene being sought), he will be able to identify the



Professor Daniel Cohen presents the physical map of 90 per cent of the human genome

fragment containing the mutation. Once he has achieved this, he still has to put all the pieces back in the right order.

The physical map of the human genome will make it possible to discover the genes responsible for diseases such as epilepsy, diabetes, asthma and muscular dystrophy far more quickly, because it presents the human DNA already cut up into tiny fragments which bear markers and are catalogued and ordered. But, as Professor Cohen, Dr. Chumakov and Dr. Weissenbach point out, "this map covers just over 90

per cent of the genome. It is not definitive. It contains a certain percentage of errors. It is incomplete in places. In short, it is not perfect. It is a first generation map but it should prove immediately useful to many researchers."

The Genethon is a laboratory financed by donations from French television viewers. It is not a commercial enterprise.

That is one of the reasons why these three researchers have decided to make their results freely available to the international scientific community — L'Actualite En France.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

FAR FROM WAY OUT

By James and Phyllis Barrick

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20. Amphibian

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Features

JORDAN TIMES, THURSDAY-FRIDAY, AUGUST 25-26, 1994 7

Israel starts handing over W. Bank

(Continued from page 1)

Shazar, an Israeli spokesman.

"probably" initial the deal with Gen. Rothschild. It will be signed on Sunday in Erez in the autonomous Gaza Strip on the border with Israel, he added.

The deal, after six weeks of talks, will mark the start of the second phase of self-rule launched in Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho with the signing of the autonomy accord on May 4.

Dr. Shazar welcomed the fact that the deal would be finalised on the same day that Israel handed over control of education to Palestinians in the Ramallah area of the West Bank.

Palestinian Deputy Education Minister Naim Abu Hammus, and the town's Israeli military governor, Colonel Yoni Figel, earlier signed a document sealing the handing over at the self-rule authority's education ministry.

But Abu Hammus has said that many problems remained and the Palestinians lacked materials, schools and teachers.

"All the donor countries should stand beside us to give us the opportunity to run the education system (...)," he said.

Officers from the Israeli military administration and officials from the Palestinian education ministry witnessed the signing.

"I can now affirm that the next school year in the West Bank will be Palestinian," Mr. Abu Hammus said.

Before the end of the month, Israel is to hand over responsibility for education in all West Bank towns, in time for the start of the new school year on Sept. 1.

The 1993 education budget was \$43 million, said Elise

Signs emerge of Iraqi return

(Continued from page 12)

an, Pakistani, Italian and Spanish businesses and semi-governmental delegations are seen more frequently in Baghdad. Many of them lost large markets and trading partners when Iraq was bombed into submission and its borders were closed to trade by the U.S.-led allies and the United Nations.

According to a senior member of the European Commission in Brussels, Europeans question whether the U.S. insistence that sanctions against Iraq not be softened may be due to "strategic and economic" rather than "security" reasons.

"It is a question we must raise. We suspect that the U.S. will put a heavy price on its 'yes' vote to lift sanctions," said a European diplomat. That price, many European officials suspect, may be "exclusive trade terms," said the diplomat.

The Europeans say that much like what happened in post-war Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, the "big deals will all go to the Americans — that's one price for lifting sanctions."

But Iraqi officials say that trade conditions are only one item on a long list of terms that are being talked about.

"Now there are suggestions that Iraq take some (up to 150,000) of the Palestinian refugees from Lebanon and settle them permanently in Iraq," said one official.

While Jordanian and foreign sources close to the multilateral refugee talks say they know "nothing of this," Iraqi sources say that the possibility of resettling Palestinian refugees in Iraq is "being floated."

Less than 50,000 Palestinians lived in Iraq since 1948. Most of these were given Iraqi nationality. Demographers say because most Palestinians are either Sunni Muslims or Christians, their presence in Iraq is favourable for the traditional Sunni leadership of the country.

In Lebanon, the largely Muslim Palestinian population would further strain the delicate balance between religious groups and sects.

Even if some were given Lebanese nationality, not all 300,000 are expected to stay in Lebanon.

The U.S. and Israel want at least some of the Palestinians in Lebanon to be settled in Iraq because it is easier, diplomats said.

Iraq oil has been trickling to several neighbouring countries. Both Iran and Turkey are reportedly receiving Iraqi oil at discount prices, and unofficial trade through the Kurdish north and the Shi'ite south

continues. The only U.N.-approved transfer of oil from Iraq is to Jordan.

U.S. officials have said that the low price of oil has prevented its Gulf allies, such as Saudi Arabia, from approving Iraq's re-entry into the oil markets.

Representatives of European governments have even linked the lifting of the oil embargo to the political situation in Algeria.

"If and when Algeria falls to the fundamentalists, the Algerian oil market will probably be embargoed and then we will have to open up Iraq again," said a high-ranking member of a European diplomatic mission in Algiers.

Some Asian officials have reportedly urged the Iraqi government to "opt for the Iranian alternative," by allying itself to the country with which it was at war for eight years.

"Through Iran they can shift anything they want to the international market," said one Asian diplomat close to Baghdad.

Washington insiders believe that Iraq and Iran are now cooperating in new ways as a result of the embargo against Iraq.

Washington fears that Iran and Iraq would pool material and know-how to rebuild both Iraq's and Iran's weapons systems, rendering disarmament insignificant.

While there are long-standing Iraqi trade relations with both Tehran and Ankara, most observers argue that Baghdad has always looked more to the West in its trade relations and diplomatic endeavours.

The Europeans and Asian delegations that have been visiting Iraq all have something on their agenda and to their agenda," said an analyst.

According to Washington insiders, the U.S. position on Iraq has not changed since Bill Clinton took office. They say that Mr. Clinton's position towards Iraq may even get tougher.

Every time the U.S. president makes an anti-Saddam statement his ratings in the popularity polls go up slightly, they say.

"The U.S. still sends very conflicting signs to Iraq," said the Iraqi official.

On Aug. 5, Mr. Clinton, addressing Congress on Iraqi compliance with Gulf war ceasefire terms, accused Iraq of sponsoring acts of terror against U.N. and humanitarian workers.

"Reliable reports have indicated that the government of Iraq is offering reward money for terrorist acts against the U.N. and humanitarian relief workers in Iraq," he said. Because of such conduct, said Mr. Clinton, the U.S. intended to continue supporting sanctions.



A decision by former South African President F. W. de Klerk to withdraw from Mr. Mandela's government could encourage white extremists to launch a violent campaign against black majority rule (AFP photo)

White right's fangs drawn in Mandela's S. Africa

By David Tucker
Reuter

JOHANNESBURG —

President Nelson Mandela's three-month-old government has successfully drawn the fangs of South Africa's hardline right, but white power could still threaten the new order.

Fears of a violent white backlash — and even a race war — were fuelled ahead

of South Africa's first all-race elections in April by a bombing blitz that killed at least 20 people. But the threat from far-right whites has subsided since then.

"I think large numbers of people who are right-wingers are just basically facing up to the inevitable... there is a new government, an ANC-led government, in power... They realise there is nothing they can do," said Simon Baynham, an analyst at the Africa Institute think-tank.

"The fact that police were so adept at picking up

their world hasn't collapsed since Mandela came to power. Most people's lives have not changed at all," said Mr. Baynham.

"(But) there are still some hardliners out there... There may very well be some extreme factions dreaming up plans to shoot Mandela or some of his ministers," he told Reuters.

Mr. Baynham said a single act of terror, similar to the 1993 assassination by right-wing whites of Communist Party chief Chris Hani, was a real possibility, although he believed swift police action against white bombers had largely neutralised the right-wing military machine.

He said the swift arrests of right-wingers detained following the pre-election bombings had been a major factor in the demise of the hardline right.

Robert Schrire, a political scientist at Cape Town University, said while

these people showed the terrorist elements of the right wing how heavily they had been penetrated," said Mr. Baynham.

The inclusion in the new black-majority government of former army chief general Constand Viljoen's right-wing Freedom Front had been a masterstroke.

Mr. Baynham said right-wing Afrikaners, many of whom had pledged never to recognise Mr. Mandela's government, had a political voice through the front, which seeks a homeland for Afrikaners through evolution rather than revolution.

Another post-election bonus was the decision of the pro-apartheid Conservative Party, which boycotted the April elections, to talk to the government on the question of a homeland.

"The (Viljoen) has taken the bite out of the right wing and (Eugene) Terre Blanche has been exposed as

a complete windbag," said Mr. Schrire, referring to the leader of the neo-Nazi Afrikaner Resistance Movement (AWB).

Recent rallies by the neo-Nazi leader, who before the election warned South Africans of impending race war, have been poorly attended.

The AWB, whose insignia resembles a swastika, was humiliated in March when three of its members were shot dead by black police during a failed bid by the neo-Nazis to prop up the government of an apartheid-era black homeland.

"It's ironic that De Klerk, perceived as a traitor by hardline Afrikaners, is now the brakie on the right," Mr. Schrire said.

Jakkie Cilliers, director of the Institute for Defence Policy, said Mr. Mandela's government had proved effective in accommodating the right wing, but a hurdle remained at local level.

"In national terms the right wing is no longer a coherent threat.

"Whatever threat there is now comes from the poorer Afrikaner people... Those who have the most to lose through affirmative action and higher taxes, and rates," said Mr. Cilliers.

"I still see a lot of turbulence at local level," he said.

Relief groups overwhelmed by emergencies

By Edith M. Lederer
The Associated Press

MASSAWA, Eritrea — Rotted airstrips. Antiquated roads. Looted convoys. Millions of people waiting for food. Teeming masses of sick refugees. A shortage of money from weary donors.

These are the headaches international relief organisations face as they struggle with the effects of drought, famine, pestilence and civil war in 10 countries in the Horn of Africa.

"We are being overwhelmed by emergencies," said Bronke Szynalski, director of the U.N. World Food Programme's emergency operations.

Only 36 per cent of the food needed in southern Sudan has been distributed because of a shortage of money to pay the \$4.5 million monthly cost of the airlift, the only means of delivering the food.

Vital shipments for Ethiopia and Eritrea cannot be unloaded quickly because the Red Sea ports of Massawa and Asab, now in Eritrea, don't have the capacity.

Massawa port can unload a maximum of only 1,500 tonnes of cargo a day with machinery that is more than 30 years old and keeps breaking down.

Bad roads and a shortage of trucks cause further delays. A warehouse built by the European Union is stuffed with 40,000 tonnes of food and more waits under tarpaulins outside.

"So far, we've gotten

away with it because of the drought. If it rains — and we hope it does — the food is exposed. So it's a no-win situation," said Lalit Godamane, director of the World Food Programme in Eritrea.

The U.N. agency made an emergency appeal for \$300,000 to buy spare parts for Massawa port to increase its capacity to 1,800 tonnes a day and \$800,000 to raise Asab's capacity from 3,500 tonnes a day to 5,000. By the end of July, not a single donation had materialised.

For relief organisations, coping with emergencies and appealing for funds go hand-in-hand.

The World Food Programme still needs donors to finance 40 per cent of its emergency food programme in the Horn of Africa and 71 per cent of its non-food expenses, including transportation, logistics and monitoring distribution.

No longer do horrific images of victims of famine and natural disasters lead automatically to an outpouring of public donations, said William D. Novelli, executive vice president of the U.S. relief agency CARE.

"Now, there's a sense of helplessness or fatigue, so the horror of Rwanda have not attracted private donor support," he said.

Even before the mass exodus of Rwandan refugees to Zaire in early July, CARE had spent \$1 million on the Rwandan crisis.

"We need to get it back," he said. "We need the public to support the government's work."

CMA

الخطوط الفرنسية المنتظمة

مثلثة بوكيلها العام

الشركة العالمية لخدمات الحاويات

ترفع أسمى آيات الشكر والامتنان

إلى مقام جلاله الملك

الحسين بن طلال العظيم



وسادة رئيس الوزراء، وزير الخارجية ووزير النقل وزنر المالية على الجهد العظيم التي بذلت من أجل رفع عمليات التفتيش عن ميناء العقبة

علماً بأن CMA ومنذ خمسة عشر عاماً قد واظبت على وثيرة رحلاتها المتقطعة

والبشرة إلى العقبة برفع ثلاث رحلات شهرياً واستئجار CMA في تقديم خدماتها نلقي الأدنى بذات الروح المتميزة.

CMA

COMPAGNIE MARITIME D'AFFRETTMENT

THE SPIRIT OF IMAGINATION

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U.S. Dollar in International Markets			
Currency	New York Close Date 23/8/94	Tokyo Close Date 24/8/94	
Sterling Pound	1.5570	1.5555	
Deutsche Mark	1.5311	1.5353	
Swiss Franc	1.2910	1.2945	
French Franc	5.2525	5.2890**	
Japanese Yen	97.82	98.52	
European Currency Unit	1.2400	1.2354**	
USD Per STG			
European Update = 1.000 a.m. GMT			
Eurocurrency Interest Rates Date: 24/8/1994			
Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.56	4.75	5.06
Sterling Pound	4.75	5.12	5.68
Deutsche Mark	4.62	4.68	4.81
Swiss Franc	3.93	4.06	4.25
French Franc	5.25	5.37	5.68
Japanese Yen	1.93	2.06	2.12
European Currency Unit	5.65	5.81	6.12
Interest bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.			
Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 24/8/1994			
Currency	Bid	Offer	
U.S. Dollar	0.6920	0.6940	
Sterling Pound	1.0753	1.0807	
Deutsche Mark	0.4504	0.4527	
Swiss Franc	0.5344	0.5371	
French Franc	0.1313	0.1320	
Japanese Yen	0.7030	0.7065	
Dutch Guilder	0.4012	0.4032	
Swedish Krona	0.0000	0.0000	
Italian Lira	0.0441	0.0443	
Belgian Franc	0.0000	0.0000	
Per 100			
Other Currencies Date: 24/8/1994			
Currency	Bid	Offer	
Bahraini Dinar	1.8190	1.8320	
Lebanese Lira	0.040475	0.041875	
Saudi Riyal	0.1842	0.1853	
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3150	2.3450	
Qatari Riyal	0.1889	0.1901	
Egyptian Pound	0.2020	0.2150	
Omani Riyal	1.7740	1.7940	
UAE Dirham	0.1878	0.1887	
Greek Drachma	0.2775	0.3275	
Cypriot Pound	1.0000	1.5200	
Per 100			

Iran, Turkmenistan launch \$7b gas pipeline project

NICOSIA (R) — The presidents of Iran and Turkmenistan launched a \$7 billion joint project Wednesday to carry Turkmen gas via Iran and Turkey to Europe in what was billed by Tehran as one of the world's biggest energy transfers.

Tehran Radio said Iran's Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani and Saparmurat Niyazov of Turkmenistan attended a ceremony south of Tehran where the first hole was dug to the ground.

Both men hailed the project as a symbol of cooperation in the strategic region stretching from Central Asia to the Gulf and Europe.

"This is one of the biggest energy transfer projects in the world," Tehran Radio quoted Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh as saying at the ceremony.

Mr. Rafsanjani and Mr. Niyazov signed the agree-

ment to build the pipeline, which is by far Iran's biggest joint project with Muslim former Soviet republics, Tuesday.

It would take six to eight years to build and cost \$7 billion. The section in Iran would cost \$3.5 billion, half of which would be financed by Iran, according to Mr. Aqazadeh.

Mr. Rafsanjani, speaking at a conference on Islamic unity in Tehran later Wednesday, said the pipeline was a prime example of Islamic cooperation, the radio said.

"This great project will lead to extensive cooperation in the region — and this is what world arrogance cannot bear," he said, referring to expressed U.S. concern about the perceived threat of Iran expanding its influence in the newly independent republics of the former Soviet

Union.

"I share the (Iranian) president's belief that this project is very important for solidarity and unity of nations and region and stability of the region," the radio quoted Mr. Niyazov as saying before leaving Tehran for home later Wednesday.

The pipeline is crucial for Turkmenistan whose traditional gas export routes through Russia have been disrupted since the Soviet Union disintegrated in 1991.

If and when completed, it will provide a new source of income for Iran in transit fees to supplement oil revenue which has been hit by weak crude oil prices in recent years.

Mr. Rafsanjani said Iran had the technology to build pipes of up to three metres (10 feet) in diameter for the line.

Mr. Aqazadeh said Tuesday that the pipeline would have an initial annual capacity of 15 billion cubic metres and would be expanded to 28 billion cubic metres in a second phase.

The transit fees and some other details of the deal would be decided in meetings over the next few months of a committee of Turkmen, Iranian, Turkish, Russian and Kazakh officials who will oversee the building of the pipeline, he said.

The next meeting is set for

Turkey in January.

"The pipeline agreement is for 25 years and the understanding is that the ownership of the section in Iran would be transferred to us after that period," Mr. Aqazadeh said.

That section would be 1,450 kilometres long, he

said, out of a total length of 4,000 kilometres.

Tehran Radio said the pipeline would enter Iran east of the Caspian Sea, pass through the cities of Shahrod and Semnan and bend south of Tehran towards Tabriz and the Turkish border.

Shipping lines to raise cargo rates to Far East

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Thirteen shipping lines operating between the Gulf and the Far East are to hike freight rates by more than 12 per cent to recoup losses蒙受 by a recent price war, shipping sources said Wednesday.

It will be the third freight increase in nearly a year as previous hikes failed to offset a decline in rates, the sources said.

Shipping sources attributed the decline in cargo prices to growing competition among shipping lines serving between the two regions.

"Most shipping lines are undercutting each other and new small companies are entering the service on this route," one source said. "This has kept prices at very low levels and many companies now expect profits to be sharply lower. They had no alternative but to raise rates to avert more losses. It is not a risk but a stabilisation of rates."

Japan will not be included in the price increases as shipping companies are still making profits due to the surge in the yen against the U.S. dollar.

"We have a system called the Currency Adjustment Factor (CAF). The rise in the yen in CAF has offset the decline in rates on cargo to and from Japan," a shipping source in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) told AFP.

The new rise to take effect on Oct. 1 was set at \$150 a 20-foot container and \$300 a 40-foot container.

Rates currently range between \$1,200 and \$1,300 per 20-foot container and don-

ble that sum per 40-foot container. A couple of years ago they were as high as \$1,500 and \$1,600 per small container and double for big containers.

The sources said the new increases would have a little effect on prices of goods coming from the Far East, arguing they would just make up for the decline in the past three years.

Routes between the Far East and ports in Iran and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states — Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and the UAE — will be affected.

The Far East is a key commercial partner of the region, with a two-way trade exceeding \$30 billion a year. With the inclusion of Japan, trade could reach over \$70 billion a year.

The freight hike was announced by 13 shipping lines operating in the oil-rich region, including the United Arab Shipping Company, which is owned by the governments of five GCC countries. Other lines include Maersk, Cho Yang, DBR-Senator, American Lines, Sealand, NYK and Wilhelmsen Lines.

In a statement issued late Tuesday, the companies said they saw "a strong need to restore rates" in order "to continue offering efficient services to the trade amid serious rate deterioration in general."

Shipping executives said there was no plans to raise rates on services to and from the United States and Europe, as there was almost no competition on those routes.

"Services between the region and Europe and the Americas are more organised than those with Asia."

"Rates are registered periodically with the authorities there and observed by the operating companies," a shipping source said. "This means the shipping line can undercut another."

Kenya says grain imports ban is war against West

NAIROBI (R) — Kenyan authorities said Wednesday that a six-month ban imposed on grain imports was a protectionist measure against dumping of cereals by the West.

The Kenyan farmer has been affected badly by heavy dumping from the international powers. We have to fight back," said Simeon Nyachae, agriculture and marketing minister.

Mr. Nyachae told a news conference the government had also acted to curb rampant cheating by private importers who brought in grains at subsidised costs but sold at domestic market prices.

He said private importers — mainly millers — held 4.0 million kilogramme bags of maize compared to the 4.2 million bags held by state-run National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB).

Independent agricultural economists pointed to imported sugar, bought at a total cost of \$122 per tonne and sold at a wholesale price of \$66 per tonne in the capital Nairobi.

Mr. Nyachae said that the ban did not affect cross-border trade involving neighbours Uganda and Tanzania and that importers who had already signed contracts or whose consignments were at sea would be allowed to offload their goods.

Kenyans have increased their wheat and maize imports in the last several years owing to prolonged drought, Mr. Nyachae said.

Mr. Nyachae suspended all imports of maize and wheat except humanitarian supplies on Aug. 12 to protect local farmers.

At that time Mr. Nyachae also refused to rescind a variable tax on imported commodities such as maize and wheat announced in June and opposed by some countries including the United States.

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Foster, Harris win golds for England

VICTORIA, British Columbia (AP) — Mark Foster and Martin Harris won more gold medals for England and Dayon Loader collected one for New Zealand Tuesday as Australian swimmers were restricted to three wins at the Commonwealth Games.

Foster triumphed in the 50-metre freestyle, Harris won the 100 backstroke and Loader was first in the 200 butterfly to take his personal total in the pool to one gold, two silvers and a bronze.

For Australia, Eli Overton added the 200 medley gold to her 400 title, Stacey Gartell upset countrywoman Hayley Lewis in the women's 800 freestyle and the women's 400 medley relay team stormed to an easy victory on a games record time.

That took Australia's total in swimming events to 18 golds in 26 finals. England has won six and Canada and New Zealand have one each.

Before the games, some of the Australian swimmers had predicted they would win every event.

In swimming's fastest race, Foster appeared to trail Australia's Darren Lange for most of the 50 metre but touched first in 23.12 seconds. Lange finished in 23.13 and Peter Williams posted up South Africa's

second swim medal of the competition by taking bronze in 23.16. Canada didn't finish in the top four.

"It's the first time I've won coming from behind," Foster said. "It was a slower time than I expected, slower than my heat time. But, obviously, the thing was to win."

Williams said he hoped his performance, allied to Penny Heyns' bronze in Monday's 100 breaststroke, would take some heat off South African athletes who have been accused of underachieving since they were allowed back into international sports.

"Let's hope that the little kids back home will see that South African people are winning things," he said. "For many years sport in South Africa was back in Grade B and we have received quite a lot of flack from people back home for not producing the results. But now it's starting to come through. People are winning medals. It's important for the kids back home to see that."

The longest race of the night, the women's 800 freestyle, also produced one of the best finishes, with 0.54 of a second separating Gartell and Lewis.

Lewis led for the first half of the race but Gartell took over and then had to fight off.

Alex Pedersen from Denmark drinks water as he in action to win the men's amateur road race at the Cycling World Championships (AFP photo)

her countrywoman in the final two lengths.

Lewis was creeping closer and closer on the last few metres but ran out of water and Gartell won in 8:30.18. Lewis had 8:30.72.

Canada's Nikki Dryden took the bronze in 8:37.70, almost seven seconds slower than the winner.

Canada placed second, third and fourth in the 200 individual medley but looked up to see they had been beaten yet again by an Australian.

Overton, who already had a gold, silver and bronze, took over the lead in the third leg, the breaststroke. She began it 0.44 behind defending titlist Nancy Sweetman but moved into the freestyle leg 0.03 ahead of the Canadian. She pulled away to win in 2:15.59.

Marianne Limpert placed second in 2:15.97. Sweetman was third in 2:16.67 and Joanne Malar fourth in 2:16.67.

It was even more painful for the Canadians because Overton's time was a games best, removing Sweetman's mark from the record book.

Loader, who had won two silvers and a bronze before Tuesday's final, came up in the final length of the 200 butterfly to snatch victory from Australia's Scott Miller. Limpert collected the bronze in 4:14.04.

who had led for most of the race.

Loader clocked 1:59.54. Miller was 0.16 slower and third place James Hickman of England timed 2:00.87. Again, the Canadians didn't make the first four.

Canada broke the games record set by Dewick earlier in the day and clocked 55.77. Dewick had 56.09, 0.20 slower than his heat time.

England also took third place through 200 titlist Adam Ruckwood, who clocked 56.62. The Canadians finished fourth, fifth and sixth.

In the medley relay, Nicole Stevenson's backstroke gave Australia a slight lead before Samantha Riley's breaststroke and Petria Thomas' butterfly stretched it to more than 10 metres.

By the time Karen van Wirdum touched home in a 4:07.89, almost three seconds faster than Australia's games record four years ago, they were 15 metres clear.

England's Katherine Oster, Marie Hardiman, Alexandra Bennett and Karen Pickering finished second in 4:12.83 and Canada's Beth Hazel, Lisa Flood, Jessica Amey and Marianne Limpert collected the bronze in 4:14.04.

Superb, but drugs talk dogs England

VICTORIA (AP) — World number one sprinter Cliff Christie provided a supreme performance in the Commonwealth Games blue ribbon event on Tuesday, but the scene of a drugs scandal clouded the English camp's celebrations.

Christie ran his second-best 100m time ever of 9.93sec to clinch his 23rd major sprint title.

Yet much of the talk at the Centennial Stadium centred on a reported positive drugs test involving an unnamed English athlete at the European championships earlier this month.

Christie said: "I knew there was a good time in me after running 9.98 in the heats — although it would have been nice to run 9.84."

"I was surprised at the standard here — people ran a lot faster than I anticipated."

The 34-year-old would not discuss the drugs speculation, arguing: "I don't think this is the time to discuss this thing. Let's discuss the performances on the track."

English team manager Alan Lindop confirmed, however, an English athlete had failed a drugs test but gave no further details.

Shot-putter Paul Edwards, suffering from a debilitating intestinal problem, admitted from his hospital bed in Victoria that there was a hitch with his drugs test at the European championships. But he denied he had ever taken banned substances.

Meanwhile Canada had

plenty to cheer when home-town girl Angela Chalmers retained her 3,000m title and world champion Colin Jackson unleashed Welsh celebrations with a victory in the 110m hurdles.

Then the Kenyans produced perfect proof of their middle-distance strength-in-depth — before Australian Jane Fleming lost her heptathlon title by a hair's breadth to a complete unknown.

Christie, fresh from winning the European title and beating America's best, including world record-holder Leroy Burrell, was never threatened after the halfway mark.

But his major rivals — 200m world record-holder Frankie Fredericks of Namibia and Nigerian Oladele Adenikun — both melted away as mystery man Horace Dove-Edwin won Sierra Leone's first-ever medal at the Games.

Dove-Edwin, who does not have a trainer or an agent, wept as he stepped onto the podium to receive his medal. Bronze went to Jamaican Michael Green.

Edwards, Britain's best shot-putter for six years, later stressed he had never taken drugs but added: "I will have notification of a failed drugs test but I was told yesterday something was wrong with my test, in Helsinki."

The news shook English morale — especially after 200m sprinter Solomon Wariso missed the European and

Commonwealth events after he tested positive for a stimulant in Finland.

Jackson lifted some of the gloom, with running partner and former school friend Paul Gray adding the bronze for Wales and Tony Jarrett, England's world silver medalist, coming second.

Jackson, who won in 13.08 despite being hit in the eye by a wood chipping in the semi-finals, joked Gray was so lazy that "we have to drag him everywhere to make sure he runs."

And he also had words of consolation for Jarrett, especially in Jackson's shadow. "Tony is a great hurdler. It's frustrating for him, being around at the same time as me," he said.

"He keeps poking me in the ribs and I've catched him out one day."

The crowd's heroine of the day, reigning champion Chalmers, showed the Kenyans how to run from the front after catching Eunice Sagero in the 3,000m and then blasting away to win in a games record of 8min 32.17secs.

Chalmers, who also won the 1,500m in Auckland, went to embrace her Sioux mother in the crowd and said: "I will probably give her the medal. She has most of my other ones already."

"I was a little bit worried about the Kenyans but I managed to stay relaxed when they attacked early."

The Kenyans, who left their men's world and Olym-

pic champions at home, quickly learnt their lesson.

England's European champion Du'aine Ladejo was the loser in the 400m, as mystery man Charles Gitonga, not even mentioned in the Kenyan squad handbook, produced a personal best to take gold in 45.00secs.

Johnstone Kipkoech and Gedion Chirchir won gold and silver in the 3,000m steeplechase — even though Kenya arrived in Victoria without their top nine steeplechasers.

There were no shocks in the women's 100m race, Mary Onyali of Nigeria winning in 11.00secs, with compatriot Christy Opara-Thompson second, while Australian Cathy Freeman saw off Nigerian 400m title holder Fatima Yusuf to win in 50.38secs.

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The Kenyans, who left their men's world and Olym-

Borrowed rifle proves lucky for shooter

VICTORIA (AP) — Chris Hector won England's first shooting gold medal of the Commonwealth Games on Tuesday, shaking off a virus infection and using a borrowed rifle.

The 26-year-old led all the way in winning the individual air rifle event at Heal's Range ahead of Canadian favourite Jean-Francois Senecal and team-mate Nigel Wallace, who lent him his spare weapons.

"I feel absolutely brilliant," Hector said after finishing with a score of

685.9, including 98.9 in the eight-man, 10-shot final.

Veteran Quebec marksman Senecal, who with partner Wayne Sorries won the air rifle team title on Friday, ended with 683 and Wallace was three points behind.

Hector shook off a flu virus which had left him "pretty sick" until late Monday and adjusted successfully to a strange weapon.

"I felt really congested up when I woke in the morning," he said. "My girl friend is having the same infection and we were both thumping

each other on the backs."

"And I had to borrow Nigel's spare rifle because my own weapon was not working," said Hector, who works for his father's office furniture business.

"It is not easy to adjust to a different rifle," he said. "I had to change my balance and trigger pressure."

That Hector, whose rifle malfunctioned two days ago, and Wallace are both roughly of the same build helped. The rifles are made to suit an individual's physique.

Wallace, 26, a British Telecom employee, said: "I feel really pleased for Chris. I am glad my rifle helped."

The title had eluded Hector in two pairs events that produced a silver and a bronze for England.

His individual gold was the first on the shooting range here for the fancied English marksmen.

"It has been a long wait but it was worth it," said John White, the English rifle coach. "Chris is terrific, he was very calm and very good. I was more tense than him."

Australia and Scotland split the remaining two gold medals of Tuesday.

Christine Treffry, a computer operator from Alice Springs, shot down the women's sport pistol title for her third gold medal of the games.

Treffry, 39, shot a score of 579.4 points, including five shots that earned her 10-plus points in the eight-woman, 10-shot final.

Her compatriot Annette Woodward, 46, with whom she paired to win two team golds, was overtaken in the final by England's Margaret

Thomas, who landed the silver after a neck-and-neck race.

Thomas finished with 675 points, just a point ahead of Woodward, who had led by two points going into the final.

The London-based shooter is staging a comeback after a two-year layoff with an arm injury which required surgery.

She suffered another injury digging potatoes in a kitchen garden on her way to recovery. "I went ape," said Tom Redhead, the England pistol coach. "We had to rush to get her through the trials and bring her here. But she is getting stronger and stronger."

Woodward, a Melbourne housewife who is taking part both the team and individual pistol events, blamed fatigue for her losing out on the silver.

"I was just exhausted," she said, and Australian coach Alex Taransky was understanding. He said: "Sometimes you can get the edges and some days you can round them off. We are disappointed for her but she has a lot of good shooting still left."

Shirely McIntosh, a 29-year-old accountant from Edinburgh, won Scotland's first shooting gold when she pocketed the women's prone, standard-bore rifle title with a score of 586.

Silver went to Sylvia Purdee of Australia and the bronze was bagged by McIntosh's team-mate Tricia Littlechild, both of whom finished with 585. Purdee won out on the tiebreaker, based on the last 10 shots.

She was just exhausted," she said, and Australian coach Alex Taransky was understanding. He said: "Sometimes you can get the edges and some days you can round them off. We are disappointed for her but she has a lot of good shooting still left."

"I had very successful training camp in Mexico and the training continues to progress very well," she said of her recent 80-km per week training regimen.

"I can't say if I'll be swimming any world records or not. I'll just have to give my best and see what happens."

Van Almsick said she expects the main opposition to come from the United States and Australia as well as from China at the championships



Alex Pedersen from Denmark drinks water as he in action to win the men's amateur road race at the Cycling World Championships (AFP photo)

Dane takes gold in men's road race

CAPO D'ORLANDO, Sicily (AP) — Alex Pedersen of Denmark won a five-way sprint Tuesday to capture the amateur road race title in a triumphant day for Scandinavian countries at the World Cycling Championships.

Pedersen's victory added to Monica Valviki's success in the earlier individual women's race, which gave Norway the first world title in road events.

Pedersen beat Slovak Milan Dvorscik and Frenchman Christophe Mengin, who took silver and bronze respectively.

Italy's Gianluca Pianegonda and another Frenchman, Sébastien Medan, settled for fourth and fifth place, in the same time as the winner, but out of medals range.

The day ended with a heptathlon surprise, when England's unheralded Denise Lewis put together three personal bests in the javelin, shot put and 800m to pip Australian title holder Jane Fleming by just eight points.

Lewis, who ended with 6,325 points, could afford to lose the final 800m run by five seconds and scraped in with less than a second to spare.

She said: "I used to chick-en out in the 800m and run and hide. But my coach told me to run my heart out — I ran my heart out, and I ran my legs and everything else off as well."

The large group, including 1993 champion Jan Ullrich of Germany, had a gap of 58 seconds at the finish in this resort along the northern coast of Sicily.

Pedersen, who regained an amateur status following an unimpressive four-year professional run, completed 185.1 kilometre-race in four hours, 24 minutes, 38 seconds at an average speed of 44.76 kph.

The Dane, who earned his country the third world amateur title in 25 years, said his successful tactic was to keep the speed high during the final kilometres, and to come from behind for the sprint.

"I really wanted to win a world championship before retirement. It happened today, I'm happy," Pedersen said.

Pedersen said he gave up professional races and rejoined amateur events following heart problems, which put his career at risk.

"Now the problems are over, my heart is good. I also discontinued medicines. I

NEWS IN BRIEF

Wife-beating widespread in Kuwait

KUWAIT (R) — Wife-beating is widespread in Kuwait but fear of social stigma ensures the victims never tell, a sociologist said in remarks published on Wednesday. "Much as we hate to admit it, domestic violence exists in all strata of Kuwaiti society and is increasing day by day," Hind Al Nageeb, professor of sociology at Kuwait University, was quoted as saying by the English-language Kuwait Times. "But the problem is masked and hidden by the fear of social stigma," she said in an interview. The newspaper gave no figures but reported psychology professor Ahmad Al Quraishi as saying most men who battered their wives had seen fathers hit their mothers, or been beaten up themselves. They grew up to accept it as normal, he said. "Most of these battered women belong to extremely close-knit and respectable families and if such a thing came to light it would only tarnish their reputation," Ms. Nageeb said. She said several of her students used to be beaten "black and blue" by husbands. One bedouin student had her nose broken. "When I urged her to take legal action she surprised me by saying her husband was not at fault, rather it was her mistake for provoking him."

Extremist settler leaves jail

TEL AVIV (AFP) — A Jewish settler emerged from Israeli jail on Wednesday after being held for six months following the Hebron mosque massacre vowing to continue his fight against the government. "Prison has not changed my ideas of all and I shall continue fighting the government's policy by legal means," said Ben Zion Gutstein, 25, after serving six months of administrative detention at Sharot prison near Tel Aviv. He was arrested along with eight other Jewish extremists after settler Baruch Goldstein shot dead 30 Arab worshippers in a Hebron mosque. Gutstein is a student at a Talmudic seminary in Kiryat Arba, the settlement on the edge of Hebron which was also Goldstein's home. Four other Jewish extremists are still in detention including Baruch Marzel, leader of the outlawed anti-Arab Kach movement. In June the authorities extended Marzel's period of detention by another three months.

Iran seizes 200 kilos of morphine

TEHRAN (AFP) — Police seized 200 kilogrammes of morphine in southeastern Iran and arrested three suspected drug traffickers, a newspaper reported Wednesday. Seyvan said the drugs, hidden in a truck, were seized 100 km. from the town of Bami in Kerman province. More than 50 tonnes of drugs, mainly opium from Afghanistan and Pakistan, have been seized in Iran since March. The figure for the whole of 1993 was 95 tonnes. Drug trafficking and use are strictly banned in Iran under a law passed in 1989 that lays down a maximum penalty of death.

Iraq to repay \$2b debt to Bulgaria

SOFIA (R) — Iraq will repay Bulgaria a \$2 billion debt mostly with oil supplies after the United Nations embargo is lifted, Iraqi Ambassador to Sofia Mohammad Amin Ahmad told a news conference on Wednesday. "Iraq is keenly interested in restoring active economic links with Bulgaria and is prepared to repay Bulgaria its debt as soon as the U.N. embargo is lifted," the ambassador said speaking through an interpreter. "Iraq's debt was a natural result of the big trade turnover between the two countries, which was abruptly cut by the U.N. imposed embargo," he added. The debt, \$1.5 billion plus interest, was run up between 1982 and 1990. Bulgaria, like other countries in Eastern Europe, supplied Iraq with arms and other goods in return for crude oil during the war with Iran.

Pakistan's Bhutto to visit Gaza

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto plans to visit the Gaza Strip on Sept. 4 to meet Palestinian leaders, the Foreign Ministry said on Wednesday. Ms. Bhutto will be the first head of government to visit Palestinian-administered Gaza since self-rule began in May. From there she will go to Cairo for a three-day visit to attend a U.N. population conference.

German dead, 4 missing in 'flying boat' crash

ANKARA (R) — A German man died and another German went missing after their "flying boat" plunged into the Mediterranean off the southern Turkish coast, police said on Wednesday. "The boat, fixed to a kind of paraglider, crashed into the sea after its motor failed and the wind suddenly changed," said a police official in a provincial capital, Antalya. The accident happened at a holiday village in Serik, about 40 kilometres east of Antalya town, on Tuesday afternoon. The air-filled motor-boat was suspended by a triangular wing, like a paraglider. A second boat pulled it along at sea until it took off. It was apparently designed so that it could glide down to the sea where it could be used like a boat. Anatolian news agency said the boat dropped 100 metres into the sea.

Russian aeronautic team visits Iran

TEHRAN (AFP) — A high-level Russian delegation is visiting Iran to discuss transferring aeronautic technology to the Islamic republic and swooping helicopters for Iranian goods, a newspaper reported here Wednesday. The delegation, grouping representatives from Russia's aircraft industry, wanted to see for itself the potential of the Iranian aircraft industry and explore ways of future cooperation, the "Tehran" daily said. The paper said a Russian firm, MI, had plans to build a base in Iran to train pilots to operate Mi-17 helicopters, it said. The delegation also hoped to "sell" Russian-made helicopters to Iran for products which Russia needs," the paper added. Newspapers said here in November that Iran planned to buy or lease 30 Russian helicopters, including the giant Mi-26, to ferry passengers and for relief operations.

Kuwaiti paper: Oman foiled Islamist plot

KUWAIT (R) — A Kuwaiti newspaper said on Wednesday that Oman has arrested more than 200 people after foiling an Islamic fundamentalist plot, the first of its kind against the government of Oman's Sultan Qaboos since the 1970s. The newspaper Al Siyassah and its sister English-language Arab Times quoted what they called highly-informed sources as saying civil servants were apparently involved in the plot. It said they belonged to fundamentalist groups that were not previously known to be active in Oman. The newspaper gave few other details. Oman has said nothing about such a plot and officials in Muscat were not immediately available to comment on the report which also said large amounts of cash had been found with the plotters. But diplomats in the Gulf said reports filtering out of Oman suggested there had been a crackdown against Islamic militants in the conservative state.

Italy, Netherlands pledge \$5m to Yemen

SANA (R) — Italy and the Netherlands pledged about \$5 million of aid to Yemen in response to a United Nations appeal to cover urgent food and health needs after its civil war, a U.N. official said on Wednesday. Nejib Freji, the U.N. spokesman in the Yemeni capital Sanaa, said Italy pledged \$4 million in food aid to be delivered before the end of September, while the Netherlands pledged a total of \$750,000 to UNICEF and the World Health Organisation (WHO). Mr. Freji said \$530,000 of the Dutch aid will go to UNICEF for immunising children, while the rest will go to the WHO to launch a campaign of anti-diarrhoea drug distribution.

Homeless in Beirut

PALESTINIAN refugees live in the streets of Beirut after they were expelled from squatted buildings in the Lebanese capital. The Lebanese government is cleaning areas of Beirut squatted during the war (1975-1990) but thousands of Palestinian families have no place to go since their camps have been destroyed by militia. The government said Wednesday it was planning to acquire land to build homes to accommodate 3,000 families (AFP photo)



Land-based verification regime goes effective at Aqaba today

By P.V. Vivekanand with agency dispatches

AMMAN — The first vessel to dock at Aqaba without being intercepted by high-sea inspectors in the last four years is expected at the Red Sea port late Thursday or early Friday after off-shore inspections are replaced by a land-based verification regime at Thursday noon.

The replacement of inspections by warships by observations by the London-based Lloyds Register of Shipping ends an uneasy chapter in shipping at Aqaba, the worst-hit port in the Gulf crisis triggered by the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

The inspection, carried out by a U.S.-led naval fleet enforcing the punitive international sanctions against Iraq, have cost Jordan more than \$1 billion in extra freight and related charges in the last four years.

Aqaba-bound ships were summarily refused entry or diverted to other ports to rearrange cargo for inspections, or allowed in only after the cargo rearrangement is done on the spot to the satisfaction of the inspection.

As a result, ships were unable to use their full-cargo capacity and were delayed for days as a result of diversions. The lucky ones, in full compliance with the inspectors' guidelines and documentation requirements, were delayed by a minimum of 24 hours at the inspection point

giving Thursday.

If Lloyd's Register decides this method is "effective,"

Kennett said, "maritime interception operations in the Red Sea will end." He explained that the government of Jordan sought these procedural changes.

Meanwhile, ships bound

for and proceeding from Iraq

through the Gulf will be in-

spected by a multi-national

naval task force which in-

cludes 84 U.S. ships. The

U.S. and 13 other nations have inter-

cepted 21,392 ships in the

Red Sea and the Gulf since

the intercept operation began

four years ago.

Of these 11,935 were in the

Red Sea, which became the

primary search zone after the

Gulf War closed down Iraqi

ports in 1991.

Of the ships challenged,

9,710 have been boarded by

naval teams according to

U.S. navy figures. Most were

in the Red Sea.

Jordan had boycotted

peace talks with Israel since

the end of March to protest

the U.N. blockade of Aqaba.

But after Washington

agreed in April to switch to

land-based verification,

peace talks resumed and cul-

minated in the July 25 decla-

ration by Israel to end the

46-year state of war between

them, giving fresh impetus to

the stalled peace process.

"Following the transition

period, and upon verification

that the Lloyd's Register op-

eration is effective, maritime

interception operations in the

Red Sea will end," Command-

er T. McCleary, spokesman

for the Gulf-based U.S. Naval

Forces Central Command, said in a statement.

Jordan's contribution to

the U.S.-sponsored Arab-

Israeli peace process, and the

speed with which it is moving

towards a peace treaty with

Israel it is highly likely that

the Red Sea inspections will

be formally lifted after the

trial period.

"The procedures have

been changed in response to

requests from the govern-

ment of Jordan," Cmdr.

McCleary said.

He stressed that U.S. naval

forces will continue to op-

erate in the Red Sea, a stra-

te waterway on Saudi Arabia's

western seaboard that links

the Indian Ocean with the

Suez Canal in the north.

"The U.S. has interests in

the region that go beyond

the multilateral intercept op-

erations conducted over the

last four years," he added.

Of these 11,935 were in the

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Tehran demands American apology

BUENOS AIRES (Agencies)

Argentina's attorney general has said there is not enough evidence to involve Iranian diplomats in the July 18 bombing of a Jewish community centre in which nearly 100 died and more than 200 were wounded.

Iran promptly demanded that Washington apologise for using it of being behind the bombing.

A Tehran Radio commentator specifically urged U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who condemned Iran before the results of the initial Argentine investigation were made public, to apologise to Tehran.

Argentine Attorney General Angel Aguirre Iturbe was quoted by the state-owned Telam news agency as saying on Tuesday that there was not enough proof against Iran in the case of the July 18 bombing which killed nearly 100 people in Buenos Aires.

He said the case, instead of going to the supreme court, should be sent back to investigating Judge Juan Jose Galeano who had issued arrest warrants for four Iranian officials.

"There is the expectation that countries which led in slandering Iran should now apologise — above all the United States and especially Secretary of State Warren